

Hafa Adai!

Prevailing wage survey is now 88 pct. complete.

» PAGE 2

DOC mum on furlough granted to ex-cop Hocog.

» PAGE 3

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DoD eyes 8 restricted Tinian airspace

By DENNIS B. CHAN
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REPORTER

The U.S. Department of Defense will propose the establishment of eight restricted airspace areas in or around Tinian, “to be activated independently, in multiple segments, or in total—depending on where and what type of military activity” is occurring, according to Pacific Air Forces Brig. Gen. Steven Basham.

See AIRSPACE on Page 4

Pair of parakeets spotted in Garapan

» DFW concerned with birds’ reproduction; asks public’s help to capture them

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

A pair of beautiful rose-ringed parakeets, believed to be escaped pets, have been seen lately roosting on trees along the Beach Road pathway in Garapan, raising concerns from the CNMI Division of Fish & Wildlife that these non-native birds may reproduce.

DFW conservation planner Jill Liske-Clark said yesterday they would appreciate the public’s help in providing information about the owner of the two rose-ringed parakeets or in capturing the birds.

“Regretfully, if these cannot be captured very soon, they must be removed by whatever means, as we cannot afford the risk that they will reproduce,” Liske-Clark said.

Parakeets are native to West Af-

See PAIR on Page 4



FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Two rose-ringed parakeets are seen perched on a flame tree along the Beach Road pathway in front of the JP Center in Garapan last Sunday. The CNMI Division of Fish & Wildlife is concerned that these non-native parrots may reproduce on the island.



HILLBLOM'S LEGACY

University of California, San Francisco resident doctors Dr. Sweta Patel, center, and Dr. Teja Patil, right, talk with Internal Medicine department chair Dr. Joel Smith, left, near the ICU ward of the Commonwealth Health Center. The two resident physicians are under a program funded by the Larry L. Hillblom Foundation, Inc. to provide doctors to Saipan through the UCSF.

JAYSON CAMACHO

See story on Page 5

Inos wants explanation for ‘near-collision’

By DENNIS B. CHAN
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REPORTER

Gov. Eloy S. Inos expects an explanation for the reported “near-miss” between civilian and military aircraft

last Wednesday afternoon, when two unidentified military C-130s came directly at and passed unannounced within 300 feet of a Star Marianas twin-engine plane.

“I have requested to receive as soon

as possible a written explanation and copies of any reports available regarding the Near Mid-Air Collisions (NMAC) reported Tuesday. I was informed Tuesday afternoon that the

See INOS on Page 4

INSIDE



NATION

Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu warns against “paving Iran’s path to the bomb.”

» PAGE 16



WORLD

The U.S. remains on the sidelines of efforts to retake Tikrit from the Islamic State.

» PAGE 18



LIFE & STYLE

Sony plans on putting its virtual-reality headset on consumers’ noggins next year.

» PAGE 20



MARCH MADNESS CELLULAR SPECIALS



Local

Prevailing wage survey is now 88 pct. complete

By JOEL D. PINAROC
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REPORTER

A prevailing wage survey in the Commonwealth is now 88 percent complete.

In a presentation, Alfonsis Sound, director of the Department of Commerce Central Statistics Division, said the March deadline can still be met.

"If not, we might extend to April," Sound said, adding that the survey continues using traditional survey forms as well as online questionnaires.

Sound said the deadline is still manageable considering that the grant time line is from July 2014 to Sept. 30, 2016.

However, he emphasized that the current deadline of March or April is only for data collection. There will be another time line for the data analysis part of the survey, he said.

The U.S. Interior's Office of Insular Affairs is funding the prevailing wage and workforce assessment study.

Sound earlier confirmed that the wage survey was started on Jan. 12, which the Central Statistics Division is spearheading.

The prevailing wage survey is needed to enable local businesses to successfully petition

H1 visas for their employees, according to the Department of Commerce.

Among the questions that are being asked in the survey relate to job description, the going rate for that job, and the type of benefits received by the employee of that certain job.

Saipan Chamber of Commerce president Alex Sablan said that, unlike in 2013 when both the Chamber and Commerce conducted two separate surveys, the island's biggest business organization this time would be depending on the government to do the prevailing wage and workforce assessment study by itself.

He said the CNMI developing its own prevailing wage study is important because using the prevailing wage in Guam "is unfair and detrimental to the local economy."

"The wages for an H1 employee in the CNMI is segued to Guam's prevailing wage, which is much, much higher. Our economy is different than Guam and the wage scale is different regardless of the situation. We have a different economy and we need to determine what scale we have so companies won't inadvertently be impacted here with a scale that has no rele-

vance," the executive said. Sablan said the only way the

CNMI can have access to more H1 workers is for the prevailing

wage and workforce assessment study to be conducted every two

years as required by the federal government.



John Hirsh, executive director of American Red Cross NMI chapter, left, and Gov. Eloy S. Inos, right, listen as a volunteer reads the Red Cross' programs for March.

JOEL D. PINAROC

March is proclaimed 'Red Cross Month'

The Inos government has proclaimed March as "Red Cross Month" to give tribute to "every-

day heroes" who continue to support the Red Cross' humanitarian efforts in the Commonwealth.

The proclamation was led by Gov. Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres in a simple ceremony on Capital Hill on Monday.

John Hirsh, executive director of the American Red Cross-NMI chapter, said one of the highlights of the celebration is "Walk for the Red," a walkathon that aims to raise funds to further widen the reach of the nongovernmental organization's programs in the CNMI.

Hirsh is inviting individuals and businesses to participate in the walkathon happening this March 21 at 6am at the 4H Building in Susupe.

Snacks and giveaways will be given to participants in the 10K, 5K, and 2K walkathon events. "Walkers" who will raise \$75 on their pledge forms will also get special prizes.

March has been recognized as "Red Cross Month" for more than 70 years. All presidents, including President Obama, have designated March as Red Cross Month to recognize how the American Red Cross helps people across the country and around the world.

"Everyday heroes help those in need in the CNMI community," said Hirsh. "They are our volunteers, our blood donors, people who take our classes, or those who make a financial contribution to help us help others."

During Red Cross Month we thank them for their support."

The Red Cross responds to nearly 70,000 disasters big and small in this country every year. It provides 24-hour support to members of the military, veterans and their families at home and around the world; collects and distributes about 40 percent of the nation's blood supply and trains millions of people in first aid, water safety and other lifesaving skills.

In the CNMI, the local chapter provided assistance to over 200 individuals who were victims of local emergencies, assisted over 100 military families and trained hundreds of people in lifesaving skills. (Joel D. Pinaroc)

NMC asks Legislature to leverage debt amount

By DENNIS B. CHAN
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REPORTER

The Northern Marianas College aims to build an estimated \$8.5 million "Community Services and Student Learning Center" and looks to the Legislature to annually appropriate \$500,000 to help pay this obligation.

The college presented a draft House joint resolution to the Legislature earlier this week, outlining their aim. The resolution notes that it is in the public interest to construct the proposed building and move forward with other capital improvement projects at NMC. It notes that on or after 2016, 2,000 full-time equivalent and 3,000 part-time equivalent students are estimated to attend NMC.

NMC was originally built as

a hospital in 1959, and became a college in 1986, according to the draft. The college has not undergone major reconstruction since this time. Right now, it has student enrollment of over 1,200 FTEs and an average of 2,000 part-time students.

The college also presented a draft bill to legislators that establishes a "Northern Marianas College Facilities and Maintenance Fund" for depositing of the proposed annual \$500,000 commitment from the Legislature.

Ahead of these drafts, the college and Board of Regents met with U.S. Department of Agriculture's Joseph Diego to discuss opportunities under the Rural Development grant. The \$8.5 million is being sought under this grant.

If the CNMI goes down this funding route, it would parallel Guam, where the University of Guam and Guam Community College have availed of the Community Facilities Direct and Guaranteed Loan program under the USDA's Rural Development program. UOG has borrowed \$13.5 million over 40 years at 4.5 percent interest, and GCC has borrowed \$3.5 million.

UOG services this debt through a combination of commitment from the Guam Legislature for an annual appropriation of \$500,000 per year for the life of the loan, \$200,000 from the UOG Endowment Foundation, and \$50,000 from internal revenue sources. GCC services its loan through revenues from tuition and fees.



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Shell Licensee

DOC mum on furlough granted to ex-cop Hocog

TRO over Garapan land dismissed

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman dismissed yesterday the temporary restraining order issued to prevent the Department of Public Lands from conveying any part of 1,950 square meters of public land in Garapan that is the subject of a tussle between two companies.

Wiseman also canceled the preliminary injunction hearing scheduled for yesterday afternoon in connection with the lawsuit filed by H.S. Lee Construction Co. Inc.

The judge issued the dismissal order after H.S. Lee, through counsel William M. Fitzgerald, filed in court on Tuesday a notice of dismissal of its lawsuit against DPL and DPL Secretary Pedro A. Tenorio.

Fitzgerald notified DPL, Tenorio, and their counsel about H.S. Lee's dismissal of the lawsuit.

Fitzgerald did not mention in court papers the reason for H.S. Lee's decision to drop the case.

Asked for comment, Fitzgerald said his client referred the matter to DPL.



Wiseman

Saipan Tribune contacted DPL Secretary Tenorio, but a staff said Tenorio will hold a press conference about the matter and other issues today, Thursday.

H.S. Lee Construction Co. Inc. is planning to build parking spaces for its commercial building on the disputed land but Best Sunshine International, Ltd. apparently opposed the carving of the lot as it is part of a big land needed for its casino project.

Wiseman issued the TRO last Feb. 20 at the request of H.S. Lee Construction pending a hearing and determination of its motion for preliminary injunction.

In H.S. Lee's lawsuit, Fitzgerald said DPL first agreed to reserve 1,950 square meters for the 68 parking spaces of H.S. Lee's building but it later claimed the land will be needed for the casino project.

The lawyer said if his client is not given the piece of land, they will lose all of their investment, causing irreparable injury.

Fitzgerald said they're talking about a very small property consisting of 1,000 square meters that they compromised on instead of the initial 1,950.

Local banks appear to be a tough sell on small biz credit program

By **DENNIS B. CHAN**
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REPORTER

An "ultra-conservative" banking sector is posing some challenges to the CNMI State Small Business Credit program, with only two banks involved so far in a program designed to help local entrepreneurs get their businesses started with cash collateral and loan purchase support, according to Commonwealth Developmental Authority's Oscar Camacho yesterday.

The SSBC program has until June to deploy 80 percent of its initial disbursement by the U.S. Treasury. Otherwise, the entire \$13.2 million for the CNMI "might not be available," according to Camacho, who spoke at the Saipan Chamber of Commerce general membership meeting yesterday.

Right now, nine loans have been approved to the tune of about \$1.7 million. Camacho said there are more loans in the pipeline that they hope are closed by next month.

He said the CDA has found banks "ultra-conservative" in trying to get them involved. They appear to not want to "tweak the model" that is working for them, or share information on their underwriting policy, he said.

"We need borrowers to pull

the banks," he told the Chamber crowd. "This is your program... to make loans accessible [and] capital, easier."

He said CDA only "facilitates and coordinates." The program is otherwise "bank-driven."

He said that if a potential business finds application response to "take forever," they could contact CDA with request to make their application more palatable.

He applauded the Bank of Guam and City Trust Bank, the sole two banks participating.

In an interview, Camacho said "nothing is wrong with being prudent." But he pointed out that banks are only taking in a small amount of borrowers, when business opportunities are "wide."

The SSBC program offers two lending programs. The Loan Purchase Participation program allows CDA, among other things, to purchase 40 percent from a lender on new diversification projects with short-term cash-flow deficiency. The Collateral Support Program can provide up to 50 percent cash collateral for a borrower that exhibit cash shortfall for a traditional commercial loan. Maximum participation and collateral support is both capped at \$5 million.

The Department of Corrections has refused to admit or deny having granted furlough to former police officer Victor Val Hocog, who admitted to illegal possession of methamphetamine or "ice" and was slapped with a 15-month prison term.

DOC Director Greg Castro assured the public, however, that the department does not operate in secrecy.

Castro pointed out yesterday that prison records are protected by law and are exempt from public inspection as detailed in Title I Government, Division 9, Chapter 9 or the Open Government Meetings and Records.

With regards to furlough,

Castro said an inmate's eligibility for this program can be found in the CNMI's Administrative Act.

"I am not aware that favoritism was extended to any particular inmate," the director said.

Sources at DOC disclosed that Hocog was granted furlough by then-DOC commissioner Ramon Mafnas.

Some citizens have wondered after seeing Hocog out of jail.

At his change of plea hearing last Sept. 25, Superior Court Presiding Judge Robert Naraja sentenced Hocog to 15 months in prison without parole. Hocog was given credit for 226 days of time served. His release date from DOC is April 15, 2015.

Last November, Naraja

sealed Hocog's court records.

Drug Enforcement Task Force police detective Jeffrey I. Norita stated in his report that during two transactions in January 2014, the then-active police officer Hocog handed a total of \$100 worth of "ice" to the Task Force's cooperating source at a poker establishment in As Lito.

Norita said that during the first transaction, Hocog used a brown SUV bearing a license plate AEG-871.

Officers revealed that the SUV was then leased to the office of Sen. Victor Hocog, who is the defendant's father and is now the Senate president.

In 2009, the Office of the Attorney General charged the younger Hocog with assault

and battery, attempted kidnapping, kidnapping, and unlawful possession of a controlled substance.

Hocog signed a plea deal with the OAG. In 2011, he pleaded guilty to assault and battery. Naraja sentenced him to a year in prison, all suspended except for nine days, with credit for nine days of served.

The Department of Public Safety hired Hocog back as a police officer 1 in August 2013. (Ferdie de la Torre)

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SCC to seek govt meeting on looming manpower crisis

By JOEL D. PINAROC
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REPORTER

Businesses in the Commonwealth may need to have a sit-down meeting with the Inos administration to address a looming manpower crisis.

Saipan Chamber of Commerce president Alex Sablan said the need for the meeting becomes necessary, as he cited a statement of Lt. Ralph DLG. Torres when he said the CNMI needs 11,000 foreign workers.

Torres was in Washington, D.C., last week to attend the Plenary Session of the Inter-Agency Group on Insular Areas where he stated the manpower requirements of the Commonwealth.

According to Sablan, the figure that the lieutenant governor gave “was spot on,” noting that there are approximately 11,400 foreign workers now in the Commonwealth.

“Approximately 11,400 foreign workers is what we have today in the CNMI but if all developers are successful in constructing their rooms, we will need 17,000 foreign workers,” Sablan said.

According to Sablan, based on recent numbers declared by developers that are actively



Saipan Chamber of Commerce president Alex Sablan speaks during the chamber's general membership meeting yesterday at the Charley's Cabaret of the Pacific Islands Club Saipan. JOEL D. PINAROC

seeking hotel constructions, the number of hotel rooms could swell to 10,000.

Best Sunshine International, Ltd. alone is projecting some 4,000 rooms.

The problem becomes apparent, as manpower needed for these hotel developments far exceeds 11,000. “And these developments (10,000 rooms) are on Saipan only,” Sablan said.

Currently, there are also developments ongoing on nearby Tinian and Rota.

CW1 concerns

Sablan further said the CNMI currently has a 13,399 quota for the CW1 visa.

The number will not increase, but will eventually reach zero, Sablan said, adding that the local population cannot sustain the looming deficit.

This is the reason the federal government created the CNMI-Only Transitional Worker visa classification, which allows employers in CNMI to apply for

temporary permission to employ foreign workers who are otherwise ineligible to work under other nonimmigrant worker categories.

The CW classification provided a method for transition from the former CNMI foreign worker permit system to the U.S. immigration system.

However, the issuance of the CW1 visa will stop by 2019, as mandated by the federal government.

Sablan said the math “does not add up” anymore, as there are only a few thousand CW1 visas available, compared to the projected need of 17,000.

“What I am wondering is whether the CNMI as ‘public policy’ should pursue 10,000 rooms in the CNMI, given our limitations?” Sablan said.

The executive said he would recommend that government look into a “controlled development and managed growth” strategy to address these manpower concerns.

Small craft warned of rough seas

Fresh to strong winds with a trade-wind surge will generate large swells hazardous to small craft in the Marianas waters until this afternoon, Thursday, March 5, according to the CNMI Homeland Security and Emergency Management.

The National Weather Service in Tiyan, Guam, has also issued a small craft advisory, which is in effect until 6pm today.

East-northeast winds of 20

to 25 knots with higher gusts in showers are projected through this afternoon.

Seas will remain near 8 to 10 feet and then diminish slightly today.

Members of the public, especially those operating smaller vessels, should avoid navigating in these conditions and should avoid shoaling areas. Remember, breaking waves can easily capsize even larger vessels. (HSEM)

INOS

From Page 1

Joint Region Marianas Range Complex Operations personnel were working on the necessary reports and would expect to receive the information as soon as it becomes available.

“In addition, I was surprised like everyone else upon reading the news account of the NMAC and it is my hope that if a similar such incident should ever occur in the future, I would appreciate being informed of such an incident in advance instead of reading about in the newspaper,” Inos said in a statement.

The “near-miss” reportedly happened last Wednesday as a Star Marianas pilot was about 1 mile offshore coming across the channel from Saipan toward

Tinian. The pilot was flying passengers at the 1,500 feet standard altitude and routing flown by Star Marianas, and was still within the Saipan tower’s airspace, or Delta airspace—when the military planes approached, according to Star Marianas.

“I called tower and reported that a C-130 was coming at me and stated it passed within about 300 feet of my aircraft and asked if they knew about that aircraft being there. They stated that they had not known and that the aircraft had just called them,” the Star Marianas pilot had said.

The first C-130 was followed by another C-130, which was slightly off the lead C-130’s left wing, according to the pilot. Both planes had nose-high altitude and were climbing in the pilot’s direction—right through

the standard altitude and routing flown by commercial planes between the islands.

Star Marianas has since reported the incident to the FAA in Guam as a “near midair collision,” or NMAC. On Tuesday, the FAA in Guam confirmed that they are gathering details to begin an investigation.

It is believed that the military planes were part of last month’s Cope North exercise, but calls and emails to the military in Guam and Hawaii were unsuccessful in identifying these planes.

Star Marianas asserts that both C-130s had violated the requirement to establish communication with the Saipan tower prior to entering the Delta airspace, because both civilian and military were “clearly inside the Delta airspace when the

incident occurred.”

The incidents come amid reports of increased military presence in the CNMI. Star Marianas has also reported other incidents of unannounced military mid-air approaches—one involving Star Marianas president Shaun Christian himself, while he was preparing to land on Rota last month.

According to Christian, an Australian C-130 had pulled onto the runway while he was on “about a one half mile final [landing] and 300 feet off the ground.”

The C-130 did this “without making any announcements or checking to see if there was anyone in the traffic pattern,” he had said. It resulted in Christian having to “go-around” or essentially reject his landing to avoid any potential collision.

PAIR

From Page 1

rica and southern Asia. They are a species of parrot.

Liske-Clark pointed out that preventing the introduction of new, non-native species to the Commonwealth is of vital environmental and economic importance.

Saipan Tribune spotted and took photos of the two birds perched on the branches of a flame tree along the pathway across JP Center in Garapan on Sunday before noon and late afternoon.

Saipan Tribune showed the photos to DFW on Monday.

Liske-Clark said that based

on the photos, she can see that it is a male and female pair. She said the male has a ring around its neck, while the female doesn’t have one.

“They likely are escaped pets, which is how they have become introduced in many parts of the world outside their native range,” she said.

Rose-ringed parakeets are herbivores, eating fruits, nuts, seeds, vegetables, and grains. They are large birds and measure up to 16 inches, including the tail.

Liske-Clark said that within their native and introduced range, they can form large flocks and can be serious agricultural pests, eating mango, guava, and other crops.

She said DFW has concerns that if this situation is not addressed, these birds could establish a wild population on the island, potentially harming native wildlife and agriculture.

“Although we can’t know for certain what the impact of a wild parakeet population on Saipan would be, we have many examples of the devastating environmental and economic impacts of invasive species in the Mariana Islands,” Liske-Clark said.

She cited the invasive brown tree snake, which drove most of Guam’s native birds to extinction.

Liske-Clark noted that currently Guam is fighting an invasion of coconut rhinoceros bee-

tle that may ultimately kill all of the island’s coconut palms.

As to the suggestion of allowing these beautiful parakeets to breed on the island and just control their population, Liske-Clark said that’s how invasive species often end up in new areas, because people bring them in for the reason that they are beautiful.

“Population control of an established population is expensive because you have to do it forever, and sometimes that isn’t even feasible,” she said.

Liske-Clark reminded the public that any importation of exotic animals requires a valid permit from the Department of Lands and Natural Resources.

AIRSPACE

From Page 1

Right now, Defense is working with the Federal Aviation Administration on its plan for this airspace to support joint military training on Tinian. On top of that, they aim to work with Commonwealth Ports Authority in approving an airport layout plan, or ALP, inclusive of military activity and infrastructure on CPA property.

Basham told *Saipan Tribune* that the establishment and operation of special use airspace, or SUA, by the military and FAA is “common practice.”

“[It] is done in order to separate military activity from civilian activity,” he said.

He said this SUA will support training for all military services, and is being proposed as part of the U.S. Pacific Command’s CNMI Joint Military Training Environmental Impact Statement, a draft of which is due in April.

“The Marine Corps has worked closely with both CNMI officials and the FAA over the past year through the ad-hoc meetings to get to this point and pledges to continue to work with all parties as we move forward,” he said.

Asked to clarify their working relationship with the FAA, he described the FAA as a “co-operating agency” on military environmental documents, “whenever [U.S. military] action includes proposals for SUA or proposed modifications to ALPs.”

“This is primarily done to ensure DoD’s environmental document meets FAA’s environmental requirements for federal action,” he said.

He said as part of the proposal process, FAA and Defense conduct informal meetings to brief, discuss, and review the military’s proposed SUA and ALP actions.

The SUA will be processed through the FAA’s Air Traffic Organization and the ALP is processed through its Airports Division.

Basham said the FAA and DoD have established a working group to facilitate processing both the Tinian SUA and the ALP. They have also invited the Commonwealth Ports Authority to be a part of this working group.

“Several meetings have already taken place and we anticipate additional meetings will occur as we collectively work through the SUA and ALP processing,” he said.

HEALTHCARE IN A SETTING WITH LIMITED RESOURCES

Hillblom's legacy continues at Saipan hospital

By JAYSON CAMACHO
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REPORTER

Larry Hillblom's love for Saipan has not been forgotten despite his untimely death and disappearance in May 1995. His eponymous foundation—Larry L. Hillblom Foundation, Inc.—has been providing and funding high-level healthcare professionals for the CNMI's lone public hospital.

Through grant funding from the Hillblom Foundation, the University of California, San Francisco has been providing the Commonwealth Health Center at least two resident doctors from its Department of Internal Medicine, both as a training and teaching experience that benefit both parties.

Hillblom Foundation president Peter Donnici said in a phone interview that the project with UCSF and CHC is very dear to Hillblom because the late business tycoon used to regularly bring doctors from the U.S. mainland to Micronesia, particularly to Saipan.

Donnici said the foundation funds the CHC and UCSF partnership, where resident doctors come to Saipan to help and treat patients.

"Hillblom always had a keen interest in medical matters and in fact in his will he donated millions of dollars to further medical research and had a very high regard for Saipan and the people of Saipan, so we're trying to carry out his wishes," Donnici said.

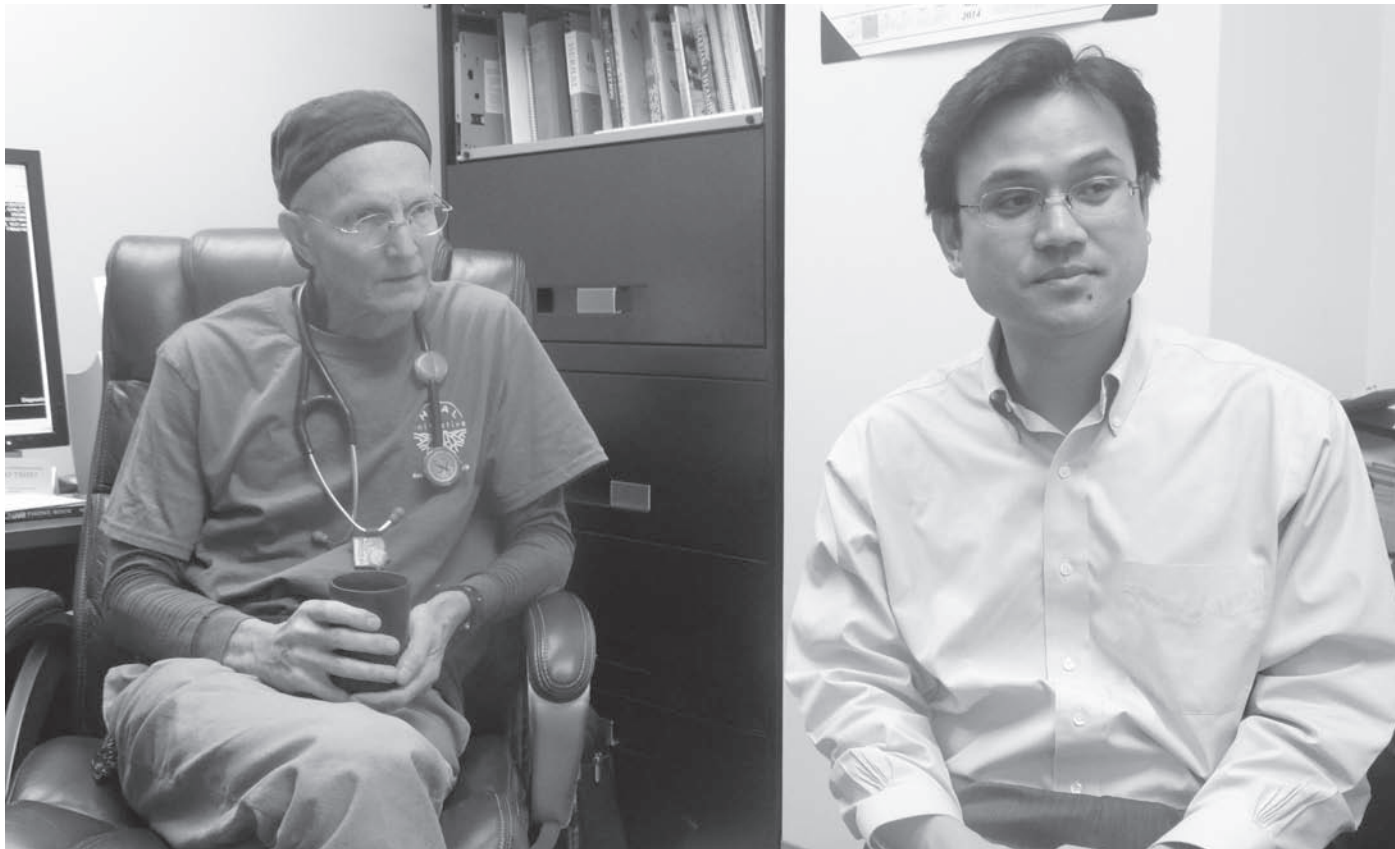
In the past, the Hillblom Foundation also provided funds to diabetes organizations, including Hinemlu Familia—a non-government organization—that addressed childhood diabetes.

Dr. Phuoc V. Le of the UCSF School of Medicine's Department of Internal Medicine is currently on Saipan to meet with officials of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., which runs Saipan's lone public hospital.

Dr. Le, who arrived on Sunday morning, is here to check on how the resident physician program between UCSF and CHC is panning out.

"For about eight years the UCSF-Department of Internal Medicine has had a relationship with CHC, where we send resident physicians to Saipan essentially to take care of patients in CHC and to provide them with an experience in Global Health," Dr. Le said yesterday.

Global Health at UCSF creates a stronger link between evidence and achievement in improving the health of disadvantaged communities. Saipan, for instance, doesn't have many of the resources that are readily available for high-quality healthcare compared to UCSF, which offers every



JAYSON CAMACHO

Dr. Phuoc V. Le of the University of California, San Francisco School of Medicine's Department of Internal Medicine, right, and Dr. Daniel Lamar, Medical Director for Public Health at the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., talk about the partnership between the Commonwealth Health Center and the UCSF School of Medicine, courtesy of the Larry L. Hillblom Foundation, Inc.

specialist and readily available equipment.

From what he has seen, Dr. Le said that Saipan offers very high quality healthcare but with limitations. So UCSF resident doctors in Internal Medicine and pediatrics come to Saipan and practice amongst CHC's physicians within CHCC's IM department while also teaching CHC's IM physicians of the latest medicines or healthcare technologies.

"Many of them get a sense of appreciation for the difficulties and challenges of working here. Some go on to be inspired by their experience here and the idea is hopefully some of them will work in places like this. If not on Saipan itself, they could work in places like this and we've actually had some interesting cases where you see UCSF—particularly pediatrics—once they graduate from residency, they'd come back to Saipan," he said.

Doctors from UCSF

Some of the doctors that came to Saipan through the program have returned to become permanent physicians at CHC.

Dr. Daniel Lamar, CHCC

Medical Director for Public Health, mentioned a couple: Dr. Yousef Turshani, a physician who specializes in internal medicine and pediatrics; and Dr. Liz Triche, who is serving as CHCC's pediatrician.

Dr. Tiffany Lin, CHCC's hematology-oncology physician, through her fellowship at UCSF, was able to set up and continue in advancing her experience, training, and knowledge focusing on bleeding disorders in the CNMI.

Dr. Lamar also took note of the contributions of Dr. James Hofschneider, former secretary of the erstwhile Department of Public Health, who went to UCSF and was one of the primary people to initially help begin the partnership between the Hillblom Foundation, UCSF, and CHC.

"It has enabled us to have expertise here where we provide services to help train them in a setting that is relatively resource-poor and it is good for them and good for us. One of the key things is this has been enabled by a particular funding mechanism, the Hillblom Foundation," Dr. Lamar said.

Rotation

Dr. Le said that UCSF provides two licensed resident doctors in their last year to and on the verge of becoming lone practitioners.

The two resident doctors from UCSF rotate on a monthly

basis, so CHC has 20 resident doctors training yearly from UCSF. Right now, UCSF IM resident doctors, Dr. Sweta Patel and Dr. Teja Patil, are here on Saipan until March 30. While here, they share their expertise

with CHC physicians and staff while at the same time learning and being trained on their own.

"I think our expectations are to see and take care of patients that are in some ways different to patients that we take care of in San Francisco. So I think we plan and expect to learn a lot. ...We've heard from a lot resident doctors who've come here and they said it was a great experience to learn a lot," Dr. Patel said.

Dr. Patil said they see a lot of similar diseases such as diabetes, heart failure, and high blood pressure in San Francisco and on Saipan, but it seems the numbers are even higher here on Saipan.

"In some sense, Saipan is a really great place for us to really solidify our knowledge on these super common diseases. On the other hand, I think we're going to see different things like some infectious diseases. In our program we have so many experts and so many consultants that we have a lot of support in San Francisco but less independence. So when you come to a place like Saipan it really challenges us," Dr. Patil said.

Dr. Le hopes the residency program would be sustained, with the Hillblom Foundation continuing to provide funding for UCSF resident doctors to keep coming to Saipan.



LAW REVISION COMMISSION

Judiciary of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

House of Justice/Guma Hustisia/Imwal Aweewe
P.O. Box 502179, Saipan, MP 96950-2179 • Tel: (670) 236-9820 • Fax: (670) 236-9897
cnmilaw@justice.gov.mp • http://www.cnmi ilaw.org

Request for Proposals RFP15-JUDICIARY-01

Print Edition of the 2015 Commonwealth Code

The Commonwealth Law Revision Commission ("LRC") is soliciting sealed proposals for a print edition of the Commonwealth Code. The Code will contain statutes of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, current through June 30, 2015.

Firms or individuals submitting proposals must be in compliance with applicable local and federal laws and regulations, including minimum wage requirements.

Proposal procedures shall comply with CNMI Procurement Regulations (NMIAC Title 70, Subchapter 30.3).

The proposal package will be available on **March 5, 2015**, at the Cashier's Window, Guma Hustisia, Saipan, or by request faxed to (670) 236-9702 or emailed to juandiego.tenorio@justice.gov.mp.

A pre-proposal meeting will be held on **March 31, 2015 at 10:30 a.m.**, local time at the Guma Hustisia Law Revision Commission Offices. Any questions or inquiries shall be directed to Mr. Michael Stanker, Executive Director, via email: michael.stanker@justice.gov.mp and shall only be answered at the mandatory preproposal meeting.

Sealed proposals must be marked **RFP15-JUDICIARY-01** and submitted in one (1) original and three (3) copies at the Cashier's Window, Guma Hustisia, Saipan no later than **April 3, 2015, local time, 10:00 a.m.** Firms or individuals submitting proposals from outside the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a Notice of Intent to Propose to the Budget and Finance Director no later than **10:00 a.m., local time, April 3, 2015**. Notices of Intent may be faxed to (670) 236-9702 or emailed to juandiego.tenorio@justice.gov.mp. For proposers located outside the CNMI, one (1) original and three (3) copies of sealed proposals must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **April 3, 2015**, AND the proposal must be received at the Office of the Budget and Finance Director no later than **April 10, 2015, close of business**.

The CNMI Government reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, or portions thereof, and waive immaterial defects if to do so would be in the best interest of the CNMI Government. All proposals received shall become the property of the CNMI Government and will not be returned to the proposer.

/s/ Alexandro C. Castro
Chief Justice

/s/ Michael A. Stanker
Executive Director, LRC

/s/ Juan Diego V. Tenorio
Procurement Officer



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Cases vs 2 suspects junked due to technical error

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio dismissed yesterday two separate criminal cases against two men after the prosecutor failed to properly identify the defendants during a preliminary hearing.

Kim-Tenorio dismissed all

counts against Sheldon U. Remoket and Dickson Teruo Cosmes.

The Office of the Attorney General charged Remoket with violating an order of protection, criminal mischief, theft, and burglary.

The OAG charged Cosmes with assault and battery and disturbing the peace.

At the preliminary hearing,

assistant attorney general Clayton Graef called to the stand police detective Vincent A. Igsaia in Remoket's case, and police detective Rhonda C. John in Cosmes' case.

Assistant public defender Michael Sato served as counsel for Remoket and Cosmes.

In dismissing the cases, Kim-Tenorio said after hearing the testimony of witnesses

and considering the arguments of the counsels, the court found that the government failed to properly identify Remoket and Cosmes in court.

Kim-Tenorio said in Remoket's case, the government also failed to state that this matter took place in the CNMI.

Police arrested last month the 28-year-old Remoket, who, despite a temporary re-

straining order prohibiting him from having any contact with his former girlfriend, allegedly went to her house in Koblerville and asked for a share of their son's food stamp last Feb. 2.

Remoket also allegedly put water in the gas tank and engine oil system of a Toyota pickup truck belonging to Sean Raboy Mendiola and scratched

the CD player inside the vehicle last Feb. 2.

Remoket also allegedly stole from Mendiola's truck a jack, a USB flash drive, and other tools.

Last month, police arrested the 30-year-old Cosmes, a sex offender who allegedly punched his girlfriend during an argument over her Facebook account.

Senate confirms Rabauliman, Seman

By **JOEL D. PINAROC**
joel_pinaroc@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Senate has confirmed the appointments of Mark O. Rabauliman and Richard Seman as heads of the Department of Commerce and Department of Lands and Natural Resources, respectively.

The confirmations, made during a session on Wednesday, were generally uneventful, as all senators gave a thumbs-up to the two appointments.

Seman was the first to be confirmed as top honcho of the DLNR, after a few minutes of deliberations.

The confirmation of Rabauliman, however, took longer, as the deliberations focused on a previous comment made by Rep. Ramon A. Tebuteb (Ind-Saipan) during a public hearing on Rabauliman's appointment.

Tebuteb was one of the many to give public comments during Rabauliman's appointment hearing at the same Senate chamber a week ago.

But while all comments were delivered in English, Tebuteb delivered his show of support in Carolinian, which apparently most of the Senate committee members on appointments

did not understand.

Sen. Arnold Palacios (R-Saipan) said the comments

should have been made in English, as a courtesy to the committee members.



JOEL D. PINAROC
Richard Seman is joined by senators after being confirmed as secretary of the Department of Lands and Natural Resources.



JOEL D. PINAROC

Mark O. Rabauliman and his wife are joined after senators after his confirmation as Department of Commerce secretary.

NMI well-represented at 2015 Tumon Bay Music Fest

By **JAYSON CAMACHO**
jayson_camacho@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Saipan's own musicians are set to take part once more in this year's 2015 Tumon Bay Music Festival, which will take place from March 7 to 14.

The eight-day festival will feature different musical performances—solo and small ensemble, pop concert, bands, vocal masters, instrumental performances, choral groups, and many more—all leading to the finale and awards ceremony on March 14.

Hopwood Junior High School will be performing on March 8 at the Pop Concert Festival, but this schedule may still change.

Marianas High School's music groups, including its

Pep Band, Chorale, and Glee Club, have confirmed their participation as well.

Paul Dujua, MHS Glee Club Rhythm 'N Harmony music director, told *Saipan Tribune* this will be the group's fourth year to join.

Rhythm 'N Harmony's performance is set for Friday, March 13, at the Kahida Guam Plaza Hotel and on March 14 during the awarding ceremonies, together with the Festival Massed Choir.

Dujua said a total of 18 members are going.

"Aside from rehearsing daily, we are also scheduled to visit and perform in three schools: Ligan Elementary School, St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic High School, and Simon Sanchez High School,"

he said.

"We are totally psyched and have been in the process of learning new songs for our performance during the last couple of weeks. Our rehearsals will get even more demanding as we get closer to the big day. I am definitely very excited and looking forward to this trip. It would be a lie to say that I'm not nervous—there's always this feeling one would get when joining competitions—but I am very proud of Rhythm 'N Harmony for having this opportunity and we will strive do our best to represent MHS and the CNMI," he added.

MHS teacher Harold Easton confirmed that 40 musicians (with 18 from Rhythm 'N Harmony) will attend.

This will be MHS Chorale's third time at the festival while it will be MHS Pep Band's second visit.

"The clubs are indebted to the Public School System, MHS, MHS PTA, Bridge Capital, and I Love Saipan for their financial support. The clubs also raised substantial funds through public performance, raffles, solicitation and personal contribution from family and friends," he said.

The MHS Pep Band will perform on March 8 at 1pm as part of Pops Concert at the Center Court of the Micronesian Mall.

The MHS Pep Band includes Gina Aguilar, Rebecca Albiento, Joyce Alfonso, Angela Aninon, Jullianne Bigueras, Marcy Ermitanio, Lester

Garcia, Daniel Han, Kathy He, Diana Lopera, Karl Marcellana, Bohyun Mun, Noemy Pamintuan, Angelica Recelis, Ronnel Ringor, Nickles Salmon, and Nina Valerio.

The MHS Chorale will perform on March 7 as part of the solo and small ensemble festival in St. John's Episcopal Church in Tumon. In the first session, John Huevos and Lorenzy Leo will perform solos. Joselle Reyes and Paula Regine Gozon will perform under small ensembles. Also performing in small ensembles are the Chorale and the Madrigals of MHS Chorale. On session three, solo singers from the MHS Chorale, Justina You Na Lee, Ann Margaret Norcio, Rodileen Mae Morales, Kaela Mae Valencia, Roland Balajadia, You Na Lee, and Miguel Aninon will

perform.

According to TBMF website, Saipan Southern High School and some other solo artists and instrumental players will also be performing.

SSHS band Flow's performance is set for the Pop Concert Festival on March 8.

Landon Aydtlett, TBMF public relations director, said it is always a pleasure to have Saipan perform in the festival.

"It is a pleasure to have them come with full energy and life and we welcome them. It is great to have them here and I can't wait to see them," Aydtlett said.

TBMF was first founded as Tumon Bay Band Festival in March 2005. It was later renamed in 2007. It is a production of the Guam Territorial Band Society.

Lower bail amount OK'd for suspect in assault case

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio granted yesterday the request of Division of Fish and Wildlife conservation

officer Marvin Rodney Pangelinan to modify the \$25,000 cash bail imposed on him in connection with the criminal charges filed against him. Kim-Tenorio allowed the 43-year-old Pangelinan to post

\$2,500 cash bail—10 percent of the original \$25,000. The judge found Pangelinan's wife, Sheila, suitable to serve as his third-party custodian. The judge, however, set conditions that Pangelinan must

comply with, such as a 5pm to 7am daily curfew. He is allowed to leave the house from 7am to 5:30pm on weekdays. He is

prohibited from leaving home without his wife on weekends. Pangelinan is also prohibited from having any contact with the alleged victim and the Payless Supermarket in Cha-

lan Kanoa. Arraignment will be on March 16 at 9am. Assistant public defender Matthew Meyer served as counsel for Pangelinan.

Assistant attorney general Emily Cohen opposed the motion to lower the bail amount, citing the seriousness of the charges.

Police arrested Pangelinan on Monday for allegedly poking the neck of a female cashier at Payless Supermarket for no apparent reason and then throwing six unopened beer cans at her for confronting him.

Police served Pangelinan with an arrest warrant on charges of assault with a dangerous weapon, assault and battery, and disturbing the peace.

Police detective Dee Liza S. Udui stated in her report that, according to the victim, it was the first time she saw Pangelinan and that when he threw the six cans of beer at her, she was hit in the stomach, legs, and feet.

Castro joins CSO Executive Committee

At the annual Coastal States Organization winter meeting held from March 2-4, 2015 in Washington, D.C., Fran Castro, director for the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality's Division of Coastal Resources Management, was voted into the Executive Committee for CSO to represent the island states and territories. Castro was nominated to chair the CSO Islands Working Group by Hawaii CZM Program director Leo Asuncion and received a unanimous vote into the committee by 34 delegates from coastal states and territories.

The Islands Work Group serves to inform CSO members of pertinent coastal issues in the islands and territories. Because the islands and territories face unique challenges in coastal hazards and cli-

mate change, there is a need for increased communication amongst the work group. The island work group priorities are to facilitate interaction and networking between island members, and serve as a resource to CSO staff and members on island coastal issues.

"I am honored to be a part of the Coastal States Organization's Islands Work Group representing the islands states and territories," said Castro. "I look forward to working with my counterparts as we identify solutions to address coastal issues in our respective islands."

While new to coastal resources management, Castro is not new to intergovernmental bodies. She also serves at the CNMI's point of contact to the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force and is the chairperson for the

U.S. Coral Reef All Islands Committee. She also represents the CNMI in various climate change efforts, the Pacific Regional Planning Body for Coastal and Marine Planning, chairperson for the Pacific Regional Ocean Partnership, and Focal Point for the Micronesia Challenge initiative.

The Coastal States Organization was established in 1970 to represent the governors of the nation's 35 coastal states, commonwealths and territories on legislative and policy issues relating to the sound management of coastal, Great Lakes, and ocean resources. Economically, socially, and geographically, the coastal states and territories are as diverse as their individual coastlines, yet their commitment to common objectives in coastal and ocean management is what shapes CSO's unique character. *(PR)*

'Stronger partnerships key to better future for people with disabilities'

NADI, Fiji—While there is cause to celebrate advances in the Pacific region's disability sector, stronger partnerships are needed to close the remaining gaps, the Deputy Director-General (Suva) of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community, Fekitamoeloa Utoikamanu, said.

During her keynote address at the Forth Pacific Regional Conference on Disability on Feb. 19, Utoikamanu highlighted discrimination against women and youth with disabilities as particular areas of concern.

"The ongoing collaboration between governments, disabled person's organizations, development partners, and the community at large are examples of the many achievements on disability-inclusive development in the Pacific, yet progress remains uneven," Utoikamanu said.

"Compared to the wider population, women and youth with disabilities have a more difficult time finding and retaining jobs and receiving fair treatment at work because their skills, knowledge and contributions are often not fully recognized.

"In addition, a lack of reasonable access to public places such as hospitals, supermarkets, and recreational centers still challenges the day-to-day life of someone with a disability and there's a great need to address these disadvantages in the Pacific region.

"To create an enabling environment for the full participation of women and youth with disabilities in all aspects of political, economic, cultural and social life requires improving governance mechanisms, challenging stereotypes and negative attitudes, and welcoming diversity.

"All relevant stakeholders from the public and private sectors, civil society and community groups need to be consulted and work together in a coordinated way to clearly target the identified gaps to ultimately improve the lives of Pacific people with disabilities," she said.

The biennial conference was held by the Pacific Disability Forum in Nadi, Fiji, on Feb. 16-20, with the theme "Partnership and action towards a disability-inclusive Pacific."

Utoikamanu said SPC was proud to partner with the Pacific Disability Forum to

promote disability-inclusive development and to actively support the work of countries in the disability sector.

For example, SPC provides technical assistance to Pacific Island governments to ratify and report on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and currently supports advocacy training for disabled persons organizations in Fiji, Kiribati, Tonga, Nauru, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu and Vanuatu. With SPC assistance, data related to people with disabilities will be collected during the national census in Palau in April. *(SPC)*

Saipan Tribune, Inc. is inviting qualified individuals to apply for the following positions:

Advertising Sales Agent

Associates degree in Business Administration or any related course. Minimum of 3 years solid experience in advertising and sales is required. Must have the ability to compose clear business correspondence and prepare and meet monthly sales targets. A background in a printing or newspaper business is an advantage. Proficient in MS Word, Excel and Power Point and must work flexible hours.

Applications can be obtained and submitted at Saipan Tribune, Inc. Human Resources Office located on the 2nd Floor, JP Center Building at Beach Road, Garapan or e-mail it to It_recruitment@tanholdings.com. Salaries will commensurate with qualifications and experience. To be considered, applications must be submitted no later than 5:00pm, Monday, March 09, 2015.

Saipan Tribune, Inc. is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Qualified women, minorities and disabled persons are encouraged to apply.

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

BEST SUNSHINE INTERNATIONAL

Best Sunshine is committed to develop Saipan's first Integrated Resort, which includes hotels, retail shops, restaurants, spa & wellness, health & aesthetics tourism, conference, casino and themed entertainment. We invite interested professionals to apply for the following positions.

• Pile Hammer Operator – \$6.05 - \$6.50 hourly

Requirements:

Controlling operations of equipment or systems. Watching gauges, dials, or other indicators to make sure a machine is working properly The ability to judge which of several objects is closer or farther away from you, or to judge the distance between you and an object. Knowledge of machines and tools, including their designs, uses, repair, and maintenance. Have the ability and physical coordination to operate complex machinery Must be physically fit and able to work in a team atmosphere At least 2 years of working experience or higher in the related field is required for this position. Must have criminal background clearance and drug test clearance.

• Welding Technician – \$6.05 - \$6.50 hourly

Requirements:

Possess AWS certificate Must be physically fit and able work in a team atmosphere. At least 3 years of working experience or higher in the related field is required for this position. Must be able to work as a team Must be able to understand simple drawings Knowledge and can perform both basic and advance metal welding courses; Knowledge in Mathematics, Physics and Chemistry; Comprehension in non-destructive tests for welding; Analytical skills. Must have criminal background clearance and drug test clearance.

• Rigger – \$6.05 - \$6.50 hourly

Requirements:

Must be able to work in a team atmosphere. Must put forward a professional behavior that enhances productivity and promotes teamwork and cooperation. Grooming and dress must be appropriate for the position and must not impose a safety/risk hazard to the employee or others. Must be able to obtain and maintain a security clearance as required. Employee must have a valid driver license. Visual and physical (hands on) contact of rigging related systems, hardware, articles. Must be able to walk, stand, bend, twist and sit for extended periods as well as climb, crawl, and lift, body mobility and corrected vision. At least 2 years of working experience or higher in the related field is required for this position. Must have criminal background clearance and drug test clearance.

• Building Surveyor – \$6.05 - \$6.50 hourly (5)

Requirements:

Minimum 3 years job experience ensuring projects are completed on budget and to schedule; advising clients on schemes and projects and determining requirements; preparing scheme designs with costings, programmes for completion of projects and specification of works; organizing documents for tender and advising on appointing contractors, designers and procurement routes; determining the condition of existing buildings, identifying and analyzing defects, including proposals for repair; advising on energy efficiency, environmental impact and sustainable construction; instructing on the preservation/conservation of historic buildings; advising on the management and supervision of maintenance of buildings; dealing with planning applications and advising on property legislation and building regulations; assessing and designing buildings to meet the needs of people with disabilities; instructing on construction design and management regulations; negotiating dilapidations (when there is a legal liability for a property's state of disrepair); carrying out feasibility studies; advising on the health and safety aspects of buildings; advising on boundary and rights of light disputes and party wall procedures; Preparing insurance assessments and claims.

Employment Application must be submitted, together with the requirements, in order to be considered for the position. ALL APPLICATIONS MUST BE COMPLETE AT THE TIME OF SUBMISSION. Incomplete applications will NOT be accepted or considered. A copy of valid police clearance (less than 6 months old) must be attached to the application. Skills testing may be required. Please email hr@bestsunshineint.com to request the application form, then submit the entire package to hr@bestsunshineint.com. Background check may be required before employment.

Look donates 1.2M-square-meter land to UOG



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

During a donor appreciation dinner event, Linda Look is recognized as a 21st Century Visionary for her recent donation of 1.2 million square meters in real estate to the University of Guam Capital Campaign. From left: David John, UOG Endowment Foundation board member; Mark Mendiola, UOG Endowment Foundation executive director; Elizabeth Gayle, UOG Board of Regents; Dr. Robert Underwood, UOG president; Linda Look; Mariflor Herrero, UOG Board of Regents; Jillette Leon Guerrero, UOG Board of Regents; former governor Joseph Ada, Endowment Foundation board member; Jesse A. Leon Guerrero, UOG Endowment Foundation board chairman; and Dr. Saied Safabakhsh, UOG Endowment Foundation board member.

Linda Look, a former resident of Guam and daughter of the late Dwight Look, recently donated a property gift to the University of Guam totaling 1.2 million square meters located in the villages of Inarajan, Piti, Chalan Pago, Talofofo, Yigo, and Yona with an estimated cash value of \$4 million. "I want the property to be used

now so that current and future students are able to obtain their educational goals," said Look.

UOG president Dr. Robert A. Underwood described the donation as "the largest single contribution that UOG has received and we are extremely grateful to her for remembering Guam, her childhood home."

Mark Mendiola, UOG Endowment Foundation executive director, said: "We thank Ms. Look for her contribution to the University of Guam. This estate planned giving is an example of how members of our community can help build a campus for many students and generations to come."

The University of Guam's 60th Anniversary Capital Campaign's effort to raise \$30 million aims to provide Guam's students with the necessary tools and resources to compete in an ever-changing global economy.

According to Look, "UOG's vision of a 21st century campus is also my own."

Appreciation dinner

Look was one of many donors recognized at the University of Guam Endowment Foundation's annual Donor Appreciation Dinner. Look was recognized as a University of Guam 21st-century Visionary, a fundraising category of individuals who donate at a \$100,000 level

and above. Also recognized as UOG 21st Century Visionaries during the event were Mobil Oil Guam, Moylan's Insurance, and First Net Insurance Co.

The Donor Appreciation Dinner was held on Friday, Feb. 20, at the University of Guam Calvo Field House. (UOG)

'Keep seeking Jehovah's righteousness!'

Many people feel that there is no way to know what is right and what is wrong. However, the great teacher Jesus believed that there was a clear way to know the difference between right and wrong. Jesus taught his followers to keep seeking Jehovah's righteousness. What is Jehovah's righteousness? How can we seek it? What blessings will

we experience from seeking His righteousness? These questions and many more will be answered at the Circuit Assembly of Jehovah's Witnesses on Sunday, March 8, at the Marianas High School gymnasium. The theme of the Assembly is "Keep Seeking Jehovah's Righteousness!" and is based on Matthew 6:33.

The Bible contains many de-

tails about Jehovah's righteousness that can help us every day of our lives. Those in attendance will find answers to questions like: What will we find if we pursue Jehovah's righteousness? How can we distinguish right from wrong? How can we imitate the way Noah kept seeking first God's righteousness? What will help us to pursue

righteousness? How does Jehovah feel about those who pursue righteousness? What will it take for us to praise Jehovah forever as righteous ones?

Everyone is invited to attend this encouraging program. The whole program will be delivered in English and interpreted into ASL and portions of it will be interpreted into Chi-

nese. It will begin at 9:30am on Sunday. There is no admission fee and no collections will be taken.

Regular meetings for worship are held at the Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses on Saipan. To get there you take Middle Road and then turn onto the road next to Bali Fashion. Go to the end of that road to find the Kingdom Hall on the left. Several different language meetings are held on Sundays. English is

at 10am and 1pm. Tagalog is at 4pm. Korean is at 10am. Chinese and ASL are at 1pm. There are also meetings every Sunday on Tinian and Rota at the Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses on those islands. The public is always welcome and no collections are ever taken. There are over 8 million Witnesses worldwide. For more information about Jehovah's Witnesses or to download a free assembly program visit www.jw.org. (PR)

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

March 5, 2001

Japanese students to join NMI Boy Scout Camporee

At least 70 Japanese students are scheduled to arrive on Saipan to participate in a Friendship Camporee scheduled this month. CNMI Boy Scout district commissioner Joe Herrera announced the holding of the three-day 2001 Spring Camporee which will be held at the American Memorial Park and kicks off on March 16. He said this friendship camporee will provide Boy Scout members ample time to discuss this year's goals and objectives. With this year's theme "Outdoors Adventure 2001," Mr. Herrera said the outdoor experience will also give the members opportunities to meet new friends and learn new skills.

Man jailed for prostitution

Upholding policy created to safeguard the welfare of residents and tourists in the CNMI, Associate Judge Juan Lizama issued Friday a ruling that convicted Chinese national Xiang Jun Yang of promoting prostitution in the second degree. Yang is the third of 11 suspects convicted of the crime after the Department of Public Safety launched its

"Operation Red Light Four" undercover investigation that aimed to curb prostitution at Saipan's busiest commercial district. According to Mr. Lizama, when lawmakers enacted statutes against solicitation of prostitution, the policies were meant to protect tourists and residents from the illegal acts.

March 5, 2004

'Violence in schools becoming a concern'

Education officials are "very concerned" about campus violence, which allegedly include student attacks against teachers and student fights. In an interview, Board of Education chairman Roman C. Benavente acknowledged that BOE and Public School System officials have discussed and expressed great concern on the issue. He, however, could not provide details about a particular incident. When asked about an alleged stabbing incident by a student against a teacher, the board chair said, "I could not confirm or deny that." He noted, though, that he heard about a teacher fighting with a student who had wanted to attack the teacher. "I heard that story but I have yet to confirm it."

'Saipan betel nuts are fungus-free'

The betel nut fungus that has infected plantations on Guam has not found its way to Saipan. After regular inspections of betel nut plantations on Saipan, agricultural expert Isidoro T. Cabrera said no symptoms of the bud rot disease has been found so far. Cabrera, agricultural consultant to the Northern Marianas College's Cooperative

Research, Extension & Education Service, said the fungus *Phytophthora meadii* causes the disease. The fungus thrives in rainy weather. He said farmers should know how to detect the disease and ask the CREES for assistance when symptoms are spotted.

March 5, 2008

US military looking at Tinian, other islands

The Department of Defense said it is considering using Tinian and other islands in the Northern Marianas for training purposes during a briefing with the Legislature yesterday morning on Capital Hill. The DoD delegation, led by Assistant Secretary of the Navy B.J. Penn, saw its scheduled 30-minute meeting with members of the House and Senate extend to a full hour after lawmakers quizzed the military officers about how the CNMI fits into the Armed Forces' relocations plans to Guam from Okinawa.

'Miura's arrest lawful'

Superior Court Associate Judge Ramona V. Manglona ruled yesterday that the arrest of 60-year-old Japanese businessman Kazuyoshi Miura at the Saipan International Airport was lawful. Manglona issued the oral decision after listening to the arguments by Miura's lawyers, Bruce Berline and Mark Hanson, and chief prosecutor Jeffery Warfield Sr. on Miura's motion to dismiss the extradition complaint and for his immediate release. After announcing her ruling, the judge said the court must proceed with the requirements of the extradition statute.

NMC hosts roundtable talks with Legislature

Northern Marianas College hosted a legislative roundtable with members of the House of Representatives and Senate on Tuesday at the institution's As Terlaje campus. The roundtable discussion was aimed at strengthening the partnership and communication between NMC and the Legislature. Topics included workforce development efforts, NMC's budget, accreditation updates, and the expansion of campus facilities. There was also a campus tour that included a visit to the CREES aquaculture facilities. (NMC)



NMC staff and board members discuss various issues with the members of the CNMI Legislature during the roundtable meeting on campus. PHOTOS BY NMC



Sen. Jude Hofschneider, with mic, asks a question during the legislative roundtable meeting at NMC.



Lawmakers view NMC CREES facilities designed to build capacity among farmers and ranchers.



Amanda Allen, holding mic, accreditation liaison officer at NMC, gives an accreditation update to members of the Legislature.



Board of Regents chair Juan Lizama, left, addresses lawmakers during Tuesday's roundtable meeting at the Northern Marianas College.



House Speaker Joseph Deleon Guerrero asks a question during Tuesday's legislative roundtable meeting.



NMC president Dr. Sharon Hart, with mic, gave an update of NMC's accomplishments and budgetary needs.



NMC chief financial officer Tracy Guerrero, standing, gives a financial update and discusses NMC's budget request for 2016.



Lawmakers tour NMC's campus, including the aquaculture facilities at NMC CREES.

Opinion

Hafa Adair!

Saipan Tribune

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AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

How to live longer, in 100 annoying steps

Want to live to age 115? Emma Morano, an Italian woman born in 1899, shared her secrets: Eat three raw eggs every day, and stay single. Also, move to a milder climate. "The doctor told me to change air," she told *The New York Times*. "And I'm still here."

Some more advice: Don't sleep too much. British researchers report in the journal *Neurology* that older adults who slept more than eight hours were 46 percent more likely to suffer strokes in the next decade than those who slept less, the *Los Angeles Times* reported.

This too: Relax! Having a bout of anxiety makes you nearly 10 times more likely to have a heart attack in the next two hours, according to research from Australia's Sydney University.

But for goodness' sake keep drinking coffee, even if it makes you anxious. Americans who drink at least four cups of coffee a day are one-third less likely to develop multiple sclerosis than people who drink no coffee, the *LA Times* said, citing research to be presented to the American Academy of Neurology.

New dietary recommendations from a panel of experts in Washington concur that drinking coffee is fine, even three to five cups daily. The same report, noted by this page last week, supports Emma Morano's conclusion about eating eggs: Stop worrying, because consuming high-cholesterol food doesn't significantly affect blood cholesterol levels for many people.

So, got it? Raw eggs, keep calm, stay single, move to a lake-side town in northern Italy, drink coffee, hit the sauna.

Oh, right, about the sauna. A Finnish study says men who use a sauna seven times a week are less likely to die of heart problems than are those who visit once a week, according to Canada's *Globe and Mail*.

See a pattern here? We're drowning in advice (and drowning is not a recommended health tip). The above studies and suggestions were culled from just a few weeks' news reports. And there was much more out there:

If you're worried about the health of your kids, Swedish researchers say it's better to wash the dishes by hand than use a dishwasher because introducing babies and children to bacteria boosts the immune system. Children and families who hand-wash the dishes are about 40 percent less likely to develop allergies, according to *Livescience.com*.

Speaking of childhood allergies, King's College London researchers found that babies at risk of peanut allergies may be able to avoid that fate if they are given peanuts regularly during their first 11 months, according to Reuters. The news service said this was the first study to show that eating certain foods may be an effective way to prevent allergies. But you know it won't be the last such study.

How to cope with all these suggestions and edicts?

Be skeptical. Canadian researchers looked at the World Health Organization's role in giving advice about how to treat and prevent illness and found its recommendations were often based on low-quality evidence, according to Canada's *National Post*. In fact, many organizations give advice based on "flimsy science" and "GOBSAT" (good old boys sitting around the table), Dr. Gordon Guyatt of McMaster University, the lead researcher, told the *Post*.

But some rules for health certainly seems timeless: Eat healthy foods, do some exercise, watch your weight, don't

See HOW on Next Page



Xin Nian Kuai Le

Yuandan is the "New Year" in the Gregorian calendar, given that name by the Republic of China in 1913 after the 1912 abdication of the Qing Dynasty and the symbol of radical change, but China goes with the lunisolar calendar, the old Agricultural calendar, so its lunar new year is more popularly referred to as the Spring Festival observed for 15 days. The "boom-booms" last that long with many going up in the sky at midnight!

Though *xin nian kuai le* literally means "fresh year happy you," its objective message is more than just the turning of a calendar leaf; it is focused on "happy" as the key word for wellbeing, usually translated as "happiness" with the word for the "ba," the state of bliss, a homonym for number eight. Numerology prefers 8s, that's why Chinese, Japanese, Vietnamese, and Koreans on Saipan compete for vehicle plates and telephone numbers with 8s. Anyway, the end of the spring holiday points to a new turn toward prosperity in a new dispensation as spring promises new crops into full harvest in the fall.

Commercial South China uses the phrase that is more familiar to Southeast Asia and Saipan: *Kung Hei Fat Choi*, "congratulations, you be prosperous," for which the younger generation merrily add: *Hongpao na lai*, "Keep the red envelop coming."

The *hongpao* is the stuffed red envelope traditionally handed out as a gift, adults proffer to the younger generation, or elders to unmarried offspring, containing crisp Chinese renminbi. Chinese children in the U.S. assertively remind their seniors to forget the Washingtons and the Lincolns, even the Hamiltons as not worth stuffing, but their eyes lit up with the Grants and the Franklins! China is cheaper. Mao's red at 100 renminbi is under \$20!

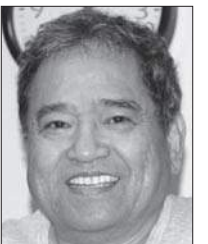
Time as the measure of change marks the European perspective, thus the AD *anno domini*, the Year of the Lord, marks the resurrection of Jesus from the grave as the starting point of a new dispensation, canonically agreed upon in Constantine's desire to unify the empire, also positioning the winter solstice as the time of incarnation and the onset of the Western calendar.

On the other hand, though China also counts years (currently three markings, two in the 4710s and one in the 4650s vie for academic recognition), the *hoi polloi* bask more on just the family obligations and social requirements of the holiday. It is the time, nay, a social imperative, for family reunions, not unlike the Christmas to New Year ethos in the West that sends road traffic into frenzy. The season is the busiest in-country travel time of the year, with many travelers stranded in stations for shortage of berths in the still relatively inexpensive train rides.

By JAIME VERGARA

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime Vergara previously taught at SVES in the CNMI. A peripatetic pedagogue, he last taught in China but makes Honolulu, Shenyang, and Saipan home. He can be reached at pinoypanda2031@aol.com.



In the countryside, shops close for 15 days, though the urban revelers go for seven, but the current political dispensation now only has three days of official holidays, but as I mentioned earlier, the boom-booms last for 15 days!

During the Cultural Revolution, not unlike the NAACP's promotion of MLK Day as a "day on" rather than a "day off," workers were encouraged to make the spring holiday a working day, unpopular among the ranks. During Deng Xiao Peng's economic reform and opening up, the holiday reverted back to its four-millennium practice of family reunions.

The mythology surrounding the holiday is that of a ferocious creature named *Nian* that periodically alighted on villages, human settlements and neighboring farms, devouring helpless creatures until folks discovered fire (sparklers), noise (firecrackers) and red (banners and door signs) as tools to thwart the monstrous ogre.

President Xi Jing Ping and the CPC counseled "austerity" as appropriate for the times, given the state of the global economy of reduced manufacturing demands that once fueled China's economy. With red streamers and banners lit by red globes of lanterns gracing the first six-floor façade of my office building in Shenbei, Shenyang, Liaoning, a new satellite city where five downtown universities relocated in the late '90s, being austere is a relative reality.

I occupy a portion of the Hui Land Development housing project north of Shenyang Aerospace University. Five clusters of blinking lights keep a festive atmosphere in a sedate "British" architecture (uppity Jardines of Hong Kong is the developer), but austerity is more the rule this year than the exception.

Being in the middle of winter with snow still on the ground, the young upscale residents will be excused if the firecrackers banned in the housing area crack the silence at midnight to celebrate the spring holiday.

But as holidays really are anywhere in the world, spring holiday is best observed from the heart rather than the din of firecrackers and the billowing colors of red, gold and smoke. Prosperity and abundance are interior qualities that cannot be replaced by flash, dash and color. *Xin nian kuai le. Kung hei fat choi.*

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Ma-admite ni tres na pairen lehislatura na makontradise lai publiku pot presentasion publikamente todusuntu ni ma'i'ina ni lehislatura. Kumeke ilegña na debi u saunau i publiku gi hechuran inekuñogog gi todus attikulu.

Finenina ileg niha (Lt. Gov. R. Torres, Speaker J. Guerrero yan Rep. R. Demapan) na ti kinubre lehislatura nu ayu na lai publiku.

Dispues ma-admite gi kotte na huñgan makontradise ayu na lai. Mana' fan mutta \$10,000 ni kotte pot malabidan niha. Kuestion: Haf' na hita ni publiku para u inapase i siha kumontradise i lai? Na ti debi siha u kinatga ayu na mutta?

Haf' na sumaunau i offsinan Attorney General? Na ti debi u seha dispues de ma-admite ni tres rai hegsu' I Deni na makontradise i lai?

Debi fuetsau ta insiste na siha u kinubre ayu na mutta. Lache para

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Insight from a mistaken stranger

Last week I stepped foot on Saipan for the first time. I was on the second leg of my journey throughout the Pacific Islands, and had expected the Mariana Islands to be an intriguing, albeit minor component of a “sushi-themed” travel book that I am writing. I had anticipated my brief stay on Saipan to include multiple visits to various restaurants, and other informal events that might offer opportunities to taste local fare. This plan was interrupted by an odd, although not unwelcome, encounter with an eccentric resident named Clark. The 16 hours I spent with Clark revealed an island steeped in zesty politics, mixed cultures, and exciting future prospects. I am writing this letter as a testament to what I believe is a Commonwealth full of potential. In fact, I believe the Northern Marianas to be a pivotal template in which new, exciting ideas can be meshed with rich cultural roots. In all my travels for culinary journalism, I have never seen such a perfect petri dish for a novel paradise. Please pardon any foolish assumptions or asinine comments that I offer herein. I am simply an outside observer, and a commenter by trade.

Now, the reason I spent 16 hours with Clark is due to a common gaffe. I share not only a name, but a remarkably similar physique, facial composition, and vocal array to the actor Bill Murray. In many countries I have unintentionally fooled scores of people my age into believing I am the high-profile Hollywood persona, although the astute observer could easily call my bluff (assuming I was bluffing to begin with). Clark was not one of those observers, and he instantly took the cognitive leap from my introduction as “William” to the informal “Bill.” It was obvious he was attempting to subdue his excitement, so I decided I’d spend a day living out an alter ego: I would be Bill Murray, and hopefully receive a Hollywood star’s tour of the Island.

I met Clark atop your beautiful mountain (Tapochau?), when he awkwardly interrupted my morning meditation. He was kind enough to explain the layout of Saipan, describing the historical spread of development between villages, and the various occupations that have left their respective cultural marks. I must say that I have yet to find a comparable flux of identities anywhere. We spent the day wandering the various tourist collection points as I did my best to recite popular lines from well-known films with Bill Murray. I’m not sure Clark enjoyed it, but I certainly did.

While the sights and sounds of Saipan were all noteworthy, it was the current state of affairs that fascinated me most, and that is what I wanted to pick Clark’s brain about. Having lived here for a few decades, he noted that the current and expected growth, and the accompanying demographic transitions, were sailing the CNMI into uncertain waters. I had read enough of the local news the previous day to understand that there was a mix of feelings about the directions in which the CNMI might be heading, but what I did not perceive was *optimism*. In all my travels I have noticed that optimism is a primary ingredient in the recipe for energetic work and progress. Clark told me that such optimism certainly exists on Saipan, yet it doesn’t break the surface of that sea of criticism that seems to drown out other sentiment. I am hoping that in contributing this letter, and explicitly highlighting the vibrant potential of the Marianas as a natural, cultural, and economic drawing board, that some hint of optimism finds its way into print, and perhaps lodges itself in the back of a few brains. Godspeed, and apologies to Clark for posing as a famous actor.

William J. Murray
Decatur, Illinois

i innosiente na publiku u fan apase pot kinentradisen offisiat publiku! Ha yamag i sisteman lai guine ‘an masede este!

Appenas Appottunidat

Uma’adiñgan dos amku’ gi baranda pot chinatsagan i tiempu. Ilegña i unu na appenas fiñkas yan chochu’ mina tat familia ti mamadedese.

“Ni kuantu na bapote neñkanu’ mana’ halom ‘an tai che’chu’ i tau-tau taimanu mamahan nesessidat familia?”

“Mauleg na ha usune asaguahu i gualu para diariu na mantension name” ineppe ni otu.

“An taya’ nuebu na fiñkas kometsiante ni lamuduñt humalom Marianas, makat u guaha cho’chu’ sa’ i pisun offisiu gaige gi fiñkas.

Iya Tinian sige ha choneg industrian casino. Lamegai na fiñkas para u halom ‘nai finañagu cho’chu’ siha deste tiemporariu yan petmanente.

Iya Luta tiha kakaikaigue’ i industrian casino. Taya’ otu ladañg-kulu na bisnis mafattu ni para u prebeniye cho’chu’ i tautauña. Lau guaha gi entre siha fumafama na “globus” i industrian casino. Atan fan kau ti man-pinidoñguan hamyu ni finu’ miyu?

Sinsiyu na konbetsasion ‘nai sige man-amko’ta ma-ebalua i masusesede. Gi hilu’ este taya’ planu taimanu para umamueba ya u mana’ halom fresku na fiñkas para u fotma fitme yan prosperu na pisun ekonomia. Makat na karera ‘an para sige ha’ machukan i hagas bisiu. Hafa futtuna-ta gi hilu este?

Dibin Hospitat

I kotte ha mensiona na tai fondu (kara’) i hospitat CHC para u apase dibiña gi CUC mas ke \$14 miyon pesus. ‘Nos kuantos mensahe man-huyunñ gi hilu’ este na anunsu ginen i kotte.

1). Kara’iya Marianas mina’ ti siña ma-apase dibin kandet hospitat.

2). I CUC ha mensiona para u bira este na kuenta guatu giya hita, Siempre apas utilidat kumahulu’ mas ke haf’ ta apapase pa’gu.

Gi konsiderasion moneda para usun hospitat mauleg i lehislatura u fakot haf’ na disposision monhayan man-mapetsige ni mane-hante na kara’ i hospitat pa’gu. Hiniñogogu na guaha man-mahat-sa sueddun niha mientras i pumalu man-ñgaha’ gi kanton katsada.

I mas ma’gas timalagu madispone ni kuetpon hospitat (board). Dañkulu na piniligru este gi disposision tax ni ta apapase para operason CHC. Sin satton na disposision ginen i board taimanu u guaha anadahe yan adelantu gi uniku hospital-ta?

Obama does love America, but has flirted with others

Former New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani asserted the other day that he doesn’t think that President Barack Obama loves America. And Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker, who is mulling a presidential run in 2016, said he didn’t know whether or not Obama loves America, either.

Serving as president is usually a pretty good indicator of whether someone loves America or not. At least, Giuliani and Walker didn’t say that Obama really loved Kenya. Small victories, we say.

But what if it’s possible to love more than one country? You know, say, the way Giuliani tries out wives as often as he changes his socks?

I have found an as-yet-unreleased love letter to America from Obama, and I hope this clears things up:

Dear America,

Of course I love you. You know that. As your 44th president, that should be abundantly clear. After all, look what I have to put up with: Rudy Giuliani and Scott Walker, and that’s just for starters. Don’t get me started on John Boehner and Mitch McConnell.

But I also have a confession, America. I have had relationships with other countries.

There was this thing with Indonesia, and they called it puppy love. In junior high, I had a crush on Great Britain. But with her unpleasant foods and her cars that wouldn’t start when it dipped below 50 degrees, it wasn’t meant to be.

When I was in college, I dated France. It was wild and tem-

HOW

From Page 10

smoke, see a doctor.

We’ll boil it down further to the words of noted food and nutrition author Michael Pollan: “Eat food. Not too much. Mostly plants.”

And, finally this ancient wisdom attributed to the Roman playwright Terence: All things in moderation.

That includes how many health tips to follow.

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.



Un’ manadan asuntu siempre bai’ bisita dispues pot CHC. Gi pa’gu bai pega lapeshu gi un’ banda.

Dalai ‘ste Iku!

I didog na pinadesi na tiempu patte gi tumunog haguhan siglu ‘nai todus patte gi tanu’ man-hinigua’ seriusu na chinatsaga. Siempre ennau na haguha u tutuhongue’ bumira hulu’. I kuestion: Ngai’an? Bali umesurette maseha ti masita hau sumaunau gi kineni’ atulai gi chenchulu pat mapga’ fanihe gi sabana.

Estague’ siklun finapos elmundu kada sien años. Gi rinisaken tiempu, siempre u kilulog huyunñ gi taduñg ‘nai hasedi hit man-haguñ ñaihon. Parehu yan dineku’ atdau ni kahulu’ gi sanhaya ya machum gi sanlagu. Siempre u doku’ ta’lu gi sigiente dia. Hagu kapitan galaide’ mu haf’ mauleg para un’ chogue ni benifisiosu.

Mampos fotte este na chinatsaga na tat tihu li’e chumichichi’ diariu. Adahe para u chachaleg lau kanaha’ pinipinu’ ni putin dinalag damagasña. Esta tutuhu’ lago’ña. Tiempu ta nesessita gi este na karera. Gigon kalamten homlu’ i ekonomian enteru elmundu siempre ha bataña hit ennau na napu.

Katnadan Hinegsa’

Esta tres man-amigu sige man etupag gi kantun sagua’ i Fishing Base. I dos gi santatte duru mañgone’. I amigun niha gi sanmena puru yeñgyunñ yan cheffa.

Pot chaleg, uma’achetge i dos ‘nai ilegña i unu, “Na hatmage fan ennau i sagan hinegsa’ ya bai pegaye mas katnada i haguethu”. Dispues mali’e i amigun niha sige ha kehagu’ i bentoña. Era para u chage katnadan hinegsa’ lokue’. Tontu!

Dispues gi halom fina’ gimen duru i dos umasogne haye tumutuhon ositan pot katnadan hinegsa’. Mapatte lokue’ amigun niha pot tula noche ha kekone’ Saipan ginen i fondu. Era puru basulan chai-guan gagadun gi haguethu. Ai na gracia!

By JACK OHMAN
The Sacramento Bee

Jack Ohman is the editorial cartoonist for The Sacramento Bee. Readers may send him email at johman@sacbee.com.



pestuous, as these French things can be. I loved her fries and her tasty wine and the way her beret was cocked on her head. You know.

When I got to law school, I had an inappropriate liaison with Japan. She was so pretty and shy. You used to fight all the time with her, I know. Same thing with Germany: I also had a little thing going on with her; she did make great cars, though.

Before I met Michelle, I also played footsie with Iceland. But she was frigid. So forget that. I also made passes at Sweden and Norway. Same deal, cold to the touch.

I went out to dinner a couple of times with Pakistan. Talk about crazy. We kept in touch off and on, but then I took out Osama and Pakistan stopped speaking to me. I had drinks with Thailand, Spain, and Burkina Faso. That’s it. I swear.

As for Russia, it’s complicated. And don’t get me started on China. That was just one dinner date, and I snuck out through the bathroom window. And I felt like I hadn’t eaten a thing.

You probably also don’t know that I was obsessed with Estonia, Malaysia, Argentina, Panama and Lesotho. They just didn’t get my jokes.

Anyway, America, it’s you I really love. Truly.

After all, anyone who has to deal with the tea party, the Koch brothers, Bill Clinton (yikes!), Joe Biden, Kanye West, Rush Limbaugh and East Coast winters must really be in it for the long haul, or, at least until Jan. 20, 2017.


After that, I’m outta here. I’m going back to my first love: golf.

Love,
Barack XXXOOO

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian


TODAY



Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
Northeast winds 10 to 20 mph.

▲86° ▼75°


FRIDAY



Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
Northeast winds 10 to 20 mph.

▲86° ▼75°


SATURDAY



Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

▲86° ▼75°


SUNDAY



Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

▲86° ▼75°

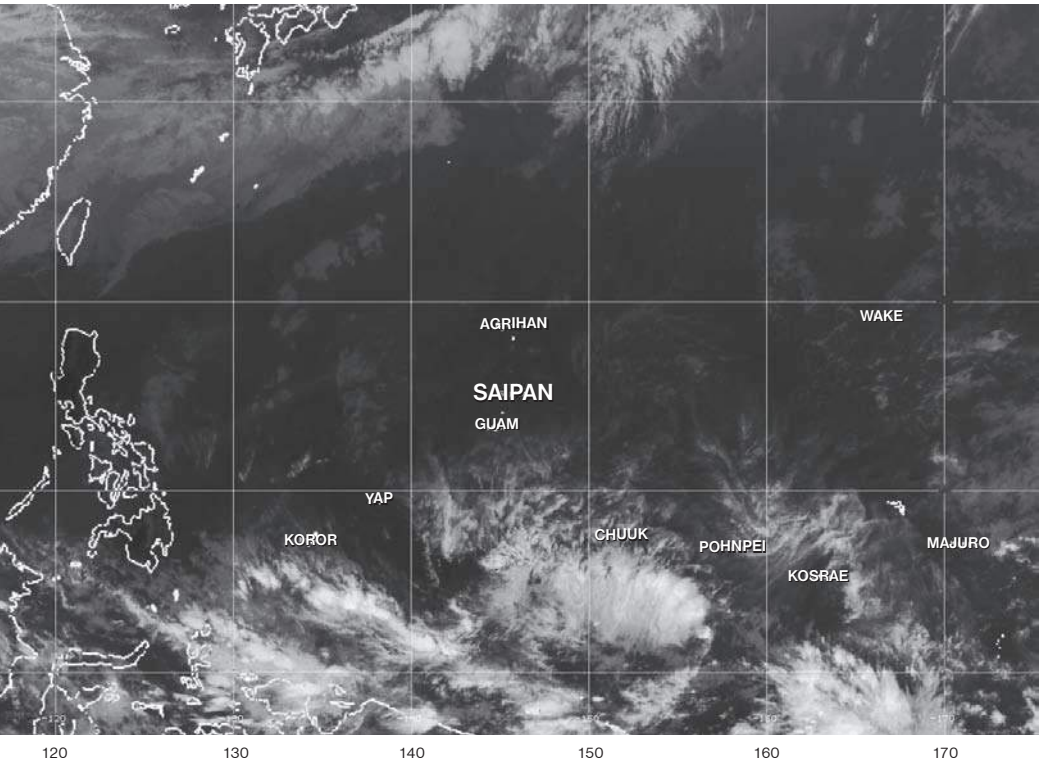
MONDAY



Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

▲86° ▼75°

Yesterday's Satellite Image




PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4, 2015
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A near-equatorial trough stretches far eastward from 3N130E to a disturbance centered just east of Tarawa at 2N175E. Several areas of scattered showers and a few thunderstorms south of Koror, Yap and Chuuk and southwest of Pohnpei are south of a line from 8N130E to 3N141E to 7N146E to 5N156E. Scattered showers well south of Kosrae are south of 2N from 160E to 166E. A surface trough curves northward from the disturbance at 2N175E to northeast of Majuro at 10N175E with scattered showers and a few thunderstorms east of a line from 15N172E to 10N170E to 3N178E. A cold front runs southwestward from 25N133E to beyond 130E to 24N. Extensive cloudiness and patchy rain are along and up to 300 miles northwest of the front.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

Micronesia			
Guam And Rota	Showers	▲84	▼76
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼75
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼77
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼80
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼78
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲83	▼79
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼79

Around the Globe			
Auckland	Mostly Sunny	▲81	▼67
Beijing	Sunny	▲50	▼25
Hong Kong	Showers	▲70	▼65
Honolulu	Showers	▲76	▼68
London	Partly Cloudy	▲51	▼34
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲71	▼47
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲88	▼71
Melbourne	Windy	▲69	▼56
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲82	▼72
New York	Showers	▲45	▼31
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲47	▼35
Paris	Partly Cloudy	▲50	▼34
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	▲47	▼34
Rome	Rain	▲62	▼48
Salem	Sunny	▲59	▼36
San Francisco	Sunny	▲66	▼49
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	▲42	▼25
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	▲54	▼37
Washington, DC	Rain	▲49	▼36



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Tides			
Saipan Harbor			
1:44 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet
8:04 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
2:06 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.7 Feet
7:30 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset		
Today	6:32 AM	6:26 PM
Friday	6:32 AM	6:26 PM
Saturday	6:31 AM	6:26 PM
Sunday	6:31 AM	6:26 PM
Monday	6:30 AM	6:27 PM

Moonrise/Moonset		
Today	6:03 PM	5:55A M
Friday	6:49 PM	6:33 AM
Saturday	7:36 PM	7:11 AM
Sunday	8:23 PM	7:50 AM
Monday	9:11 PM	8:29 AM

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 5, 2015											
DEPARTURES						ARRIVALS					
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)						GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN					
UA5070	4:15am	5:05am	Daily			UA5069	2:45am	3:35am	Daily		
UA5068	8:00am	8:50am	3			UA5071	6:40am	7:30am	3		
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7			UA5071	7:15am	8:05am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7		
UA5039	2:20pm	4:00pm	6, 7 via Rota			UA5039	1:00pm	1:50pm	6, 7		
UA5078	3:10pm	4:00pm	1, 5			UA5038	1:10pm	2:40pm	2, 4 via Rota		
UA5038	3:10pm	4:00pm	2, 4			UA5077	1:50pm	2:40pm	1, 5		
UA5040	6:55pm	7:45pm	1, 5			UA5041	5:35pm	6:25pm	1, 5		
UA5078	8:35pm	9:25pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7			UA5077	7:15pm	8:05pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7		
UA5044	10:40pm	11:30pm	1, 5			UA5043	9:20pm	10:10pm	1, 5		
SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)						GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)					
UA5039	2:20pm	2:55pm	6, 7			UA5038	1:00pm	1:35pm	2, 4		
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)						ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN					
UA5039	3:25pm	4:00pm	6, 7			UA5038	2:05pm	2:40pm	2, 4		
SAIPAN-PALAU (ROR)						PALAU (ROR)-SAIPAN					
DL287	6:05am	1:10am+1	2, 6 via NRT			DL298	4:35am	3:00pm	3, 7 via NRT		
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)						NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN					
DL287	6:05am	8:40am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6			DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily		
DL297	4:20pm	7:05pm	Daily			DL288	8:55pm	1:25am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 7		
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)						SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN					
OZ606	2:10am	6:00am	1			OZ603	9:00am	2:20pm	Daily		
OZ606	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7			7C 3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily		
OZ6063	3:20am	7:10am	3, 4, 6, 7			OZ605	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7		
OZ604	3:20pm	7:10pm	Daily			OZ605	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6		
7C 3401	4:30pm	8:20pm	Daily			OZ6053	8:50pm	2:10am+1	2, 3, 5, 6		
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)						BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN					
OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7			OZ607	9:00pm	1:50am+1	3, 6		
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)						SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN					
3U8648	6:00am	8:35am	1, 4, 5, 7			3U8647	10:30pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7		
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)						BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN					
MU764	1:30am	5:30am	1, 4, 5, 7			MU763	4:30pm	12:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7		
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)						GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN					
3U8646	4:30am	7:30am	2, 6			3U8645	7:55pm	3:10am+1	1, 5		
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)						MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN					
OZ606/701	2:10am	11:15am	1 via ICN			OZ704/603	12:10am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN		
OZ606/701	2:40am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN			PR110/UA5041	7:35am	6:25pm	1, 5 via GUM		
UA5069/PR111	2:45am	4:50pm	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM			PR110/UA5077	7:35am	8:05pm	3, 6, 7 via GUM		
UA5070/191	4:15am	7:20am	2, 7 via GUM			PR110/UA5043	7:35am	10:10pm	1, 5 via GUM		
UA5070/191	4:15am	9:00am	3, 6 via GUM			DL172/288	9:40am	1:25am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 7 via NRT		
UA5070/183	4:15am	8:45pm	2, 5 via GUM			UA190/5077	9:55am	8:05pm	2, 7 via GUM		
UA5070/183	4:15am	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM			UA190/5077	10:00am	8:05pm	3, 6 via GUM		
DL287/275	6:05am	9:35pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 6 via NRT			OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN		
UA5071/PR111	6:40am	4:50pm	3 via GUM			OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN		
UA5071/PR111	7:15am	4:50pm	1, 5, 6, 7 via GUM			UA184/5071	10:55pm	7:30am+1	3 via GUM		
UA5068/183	8:00am	9:50pm	3 via GUM			UA184/5071	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 4, 6, 7 via GUM		
UA5068/183	8:40am	9:30pm	2, 5 via GUM			UA184/5039	10:55pm	1:50pm+1	6, 7 via GUM		
UA5068/183	8:40am	9:50pm	1, 4, 6, 7 via GUM			UA184/5038	10:55pm	2:40pm+1	4 via GUM-Rota		
UA5039/183	2:20pm	9:50pm	6, 7 via Rota-GUM			UA184/5077	10:55pm	2:40pm+1	1 via GUM		
UA5038/183	3:10pm	9:30pm	2 via GUM			UA184/5041	10:55pm	6:25pm+1	1 via GUM		
UA5078/183	3:10pm	9:30pm	5 via GUM			UA184/5077	10:55pm	8:05pm+1	3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM		
UA5078/183	3:10pm	9:50pm	1 via GUM			UA184/5043	10:55pm	10:10pm+1	1 via GUM		
UA5038/183	3:10pm	9:50pm	4 via GUM			UA184/5071	10:59pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM		
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	Daily via ICN			UA184/5038	10:59pm	2:40pm+1	2 via GUM-Rota		
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)						HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN					
OZ606/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN			OZ746/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN		
OZ606/723	2:10am	12:50pm	1 via ICN			OZ750/603	1:10am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN		
OZ606/721	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN			OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN		
OZ606/723	2:40am	12:50pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN			OZ724/605	2:20pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN		
UA5070/179	4:15am	10:35pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM			OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN		
UA5068/179	8:00am	10:35pm	3 via GUM			OZ724/605	2:20pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN		
UA5068/179	8:40am	10:35pm	1, 5, 6 via GUM			UA180/5071	10:55pm	7:30am+1	3 via GUM		

Business

US running out of room to store oil; price collapse next?

NEW YORK (AP)—The U.S. has so much crude that it is running out of places to put it, and that could drive oil and gasoline prices even lower in the coming months.

For the past seven weeks, the United States has been producing and importing an average of 1 million more barrels of oil every day than it is consuming. That extra crude is flowing into storage tanks, especially at the country's main trading hub in Cushing, Oklahoma, pushing U.S. supplies to their highest point in at least 80 years, the Energy Department reported last week.

If this keeps up, storage tanks could approach their operational limits, known in the industry as "tank tops," by mid-April and send the price of crude—and probably gasoline, too—plummeting.

"The fact of the matter is we are running out of storage capacity in the U.S.," Ed Morse, head of commodities research at Citibank, said at a recent symposium at the Council on Foreign Relations in New York.

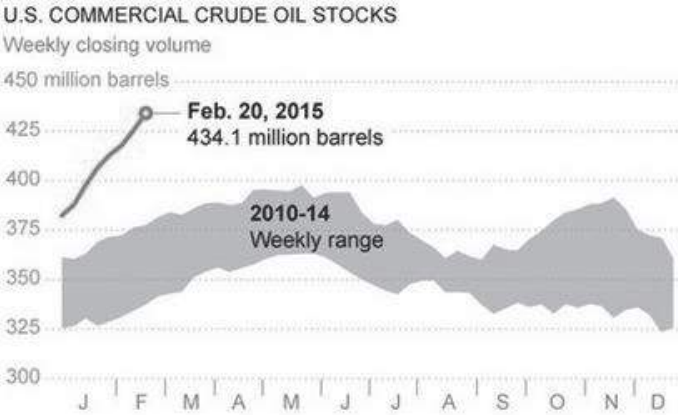
Morse has suggested oil could fall all the way to \$20 a barrel from the current \$50. At that rock-bottom price, oil companies, faced with mounting losses, would stop pumping oil until the glut eased. Gasoline prices would fall along with crude, though lower refinery production, because of seasonal factors and unexpected outages, could prevent a sharp decline.

The national average price of gasoline is \$2.44 a gallon. That's \$1.02 cheaper than last year at this time, but up 37 cents over the past month.

Other analysts agree that crude is poised to fall sharply—

Crude oil glut pushing down prices

The amount of crude oil in storage in the U.S. is far above its normal range, and rising fast. As storage tanks near capacity, prices could fall much further.



Graphic compares current U.S. crude oil stocks to past five years.

if not all the way to \$20—because it continues to flood into storage for a number of reasons:

- U.S. oil production continues to rise. Companies are cutting back on new drilling, but that won't reduce supplies until later this year.
- The new oil being produced is light, sweet crude, which is a type many U.S. refineries are not designed to process. Oil companies can't just get rid of it by sending it abroad, because crude exports are restricted by federal law.
- Foreign oil continues to flow into the U.S., both because of economic weakness in other countries and to feed refineries designed to process heavy, sour crude.

- This is the slowest time of year for gasoline demand, so refiners typically reduce or stop production to perform maintenance. As refiners process less crude, supplies build up.

- Oil investors are making money buying and storing oil because of the difference between the current price of oil and the price for delivery in far-off months. An investor can buy oil at \$50 today and enter into a contract to sell it for \$59 in December, locking in a profit even after paying for storage during those months.

The delivery point for most of the oil traded in the U.S. is Cushing, a city of about 8,000 people halfway between Oklahoma City and Tulsa at an intersection of several pipelines. The city is dotted with tanks that can, in theory, hold 85 million barrels of oil, according to the Energy Department, though some of those tanks are used

for blending or feeding pipelines, not for storing oil.

The market data provider Genscape, which flies helicopters equipped with infrared cameras and other technology over Cushing twice a week to measure storage levels, estimates Cushing is two-thirds full.

Hillary Stevenson, who manages storage, pipeline and refinery monitoring for Genscape, says Cushing could be full by mid-April. Supplies are increasing at "the highest rate we have ever seen at Cushing," she says.

Full tanks—or super-low prices—are not a sure thing. New storage is under construction at Cushing, and there are large storage terminals near Houston, in St. James, Louisiana, and elsewhere around the country that will probably begin to take in more oil as prices fall far enough to cover the cost of transporting the oil.

Also, drillers are cutting back fast because oil prices have plummeted from \$107 a barrel in June. And demand is showing signs of rising.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Apple, Android browsers vulnerable to 'FREAK attack'

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Millions of people may have been left vulnerable to hackers while surfing the web on Apple and Google devices, thanks to a newly discovered security flaw known as "FREAK attack." There's no evidence so far that any hackers have exploited the weakness, which companies are now moving to repair. Researchers blame the problem on an old government policy, abandoned over a decade ago, which required U.S. software makers to use weaker security in encryption programs sold overseas due to national security concerns. Many popular websites and some Internet browsers continued to accept the weaker software, or can be tricked into using it, according to experts at several research institutions who reported their findings Tuesday. They said that could make it easier for hackers to break the encryption that's supposed to prevent digital eavesdropping when a visitor types sensitive information into a website. About a third of all encrypted websites were vulnerable as of Tuesday, including sites operated by American Express, Groupon, Kohl's, Marriott and some government agencies, the researchers said. University of Michigan computer scientist Zakir Durumeric said the vulnerability affects Apple web browsers and the browser built into Google's Android software, but not Google's Chrome browser or current browsers from Microsoft or Firefox-maker Mozilla.

Target to cut \$2B in costs, including several thousand jobs

NEW YORK (AP)—Target Corp. is cutting several thousand jobs as part of a plan to eliminate \$2 billion in costs over the next two years. The goal: to make the Minneapolis-based discounter more agile to compete in an increasingly competitive landscape and appeal to shoppers who are buying and researching on their mobile devices. As part of the restructuring plans, Target will eliminate positions primarily at its corporate headquarters—which employs 13,500 workers—as well as Bangalore, India. The company also will establish centralized teams based on specialized expertise. Target also plans to invest between \$2 billion and \$2.2 billion in capital expenditures for the current fiscal year. That's in line with what it spent a few years ago, but this year, about half, or \$1 billion, will be spent on technology. That's a big shift from past years when most was spent on new stores and renovations of its fleet of about 1,800 stores.

Auto industry slows for bad weather, but stays on course

DETROIT (AP)—February threw snowstorms and other roadblocks at the auto industry, but U.S. sales of new cars and trucks are still poised to hit their highest level in more than a decade this year.

Freezing temperatures, disruptions at West Coast ports and rising gas prices took a bite out of U.S. auto sales last month. Still, most automakers reported gains, and analysts say lost sales should be made up as the weather warms in March.

"We've already put February in the rear-view mirror," said Ken Cataldo, the general manager of Colonial Volkswa-

gen of Medford, Massachusetts, who spent much of last month cleaning snow off the cars on his lot.

Toyota and Subaru reported double-digit sales increases over last February, and Hyundai surprised with sales up 7 percent.

But others came in below analysts' expectations. Chrysler, General Motors, Honda and Nissan all saw gains of 6 percent or less. Ford's U.S. sales dropped 1.9 percent. Volkswagen's sales fell 5.2 percent.

Industry sales were up 5.3 percent to 1.25 million, according to Autodata Corp. That fell short of expected gains of 8 or 9 percent, but the mood in the industry remained positive.

Toyota's U.S. sales chief Bill Fay noted that February was the 12th straight month of year-over-year sales gains for the industry. When combined with January, the market is off to its strongest start since 2007, Fay said.

Falling unemployment, low interest rates and new versions of big sellers like the Jeep Cherokee—which saw sales jump 19 percent in February—are driving the increases.

The forecasting firm LMC Automotive pushed up its 2015

forecast by 40,000 vehicles last month based on strong demand. The firm is expecting U.S. sales to top 17 million this year for the first time since 2001, up from 16.5 million last year.

Still, LMC said it became apparent as the month went along that bad weather in the mid-South and on the East Coast was hurting sales.

Colonial Volkswagen had almost no customers for a two-week period at the start of the month.

"It was the worst two weeks of my life in the car business," said Cataldo, who's been selling cars for 29 years.

AP Exclusive: Airlines reject rechargeable battery shipments

WASHINGTON (AP)—Two major U.S. airlines say they will no longer accept rechargeable battery shipments as new government tests confirm that explosions and violent fires are likely to occur when large numbers of batteries enclosed in cargo containers overheat.

Tests conducted last month by the Federal Aviation Administration show that rechargeable batteries, also called lithium-ion batteries, consistently emit ex-

plosive gases when they overheat or short-circuit, The Associated Press has learned. In the recent tests, as well as other FAA tests last year, the buildup of gases—primarily hydrogen—led to fierce explosions.

An FAA video of one of the tests obtained by the AP shows an explosion knocking a cargo container door off its hinges and tossing boxes of batteries into the air. The container was engulfed in fire minutes later.

In the test, a cartridge heater was used to simulate a single battery overheating. The heater caused nearby batteries to overheat and the short-circuiting spread to many of the nearly 5,000 batteries in the container. It's common for tens of thousands of batteries to be placed in a single container.

Citing safety concerns, United Airlines on Monday informed its cargo customers it

will no longer accept bulk shipments of the batteries, which are used to power everything from smartphones to laptops to power tools.

Delta Air Lines quietly stopped accepting bulk shipments of the rechargeable batteries on Feb. 1. The airline said in a statement that it took the action in response to government testing and concerns raised by its pilots and flight attendants.

STOCK PORTFOLIO

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW 18,203.37 -85.26 -0.47%	S&P 2,107.78 -9.61 -0.45%	NASDAQ 4,979.90 -28.19 -0.56%
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EXCHANGE RATES

Australian Dollar	1.2793	Hong Kong Dollar	7.7562	Philippine Peso	44.0954
British Pound	0.6515	Indian Rupee	61.8586	Singapore Dollar	1.3639
Canadian Dollar	1.2505	Indonesian Rupiah	12975.29	South Korean Won	1097.20
Chinese Yuan	6.2724	Japanese Yen	119.69	Swiss Franc	0.9622
Euro	0.8957	Malaysian Ringgit	3.6394	Taiwan Dollar	31.3361
		New Zealand Dollar	1.3236	Thailand Baht	32.3817

Nation

Netanyahu warns US 'bad deal' would put Iran on nuclear path

WASHINGTON (AP)—In a direct challenge to the White House, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu stood before Congress on Tuesday and bluntly warned the U.S. that an emerging nuclear agreement with Iran “paves Iran’s path to the bomb.” President Barack Obama pushed back sternly, saying the U.S. would never sign such a deal and Netanyahu was offering no useful alternative.

In the U.S. spotlight for a day, the Israeli leader showed no uncertainty. “This is a bad deal. It is a very bad deal. We are better off without it,” he declared in an emotionally charged speech that was arranged by Republicans, aggravated his already-strained relations with Obama and gambled with the longstanding bipartisan congressional support for Israel.

Two weeks ahead of voting in his own re-election back home, Netanyahu took the podium of the U.S. House where presidents often make major addresses, contending that any nuclear deal with Iran could threaten his nation’s survival.

In a tone of disbelief, he said that Iran’s supreme leader, Ayatollah Khamenei, “tweets that Israel must be annihilated—he tweets.”

Republicans loudly cheered Netanyahu in the packed chamber, repeatedly standing. Democrats were more restrained, frustrated with the effort to undercut Obama’s negotiations. House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., did little to hide her unease and later issued a blistering statement criticizing what she called Netanyahu’s condescension.

At the White House, Obama said there was value in the current economic sanctions



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu waves as he speaks before a joint meeting of Congress on Capitol Hill in Washington, Tuesday, March 3, 2015.

against Iran and also in the negotiations in Switzerland aimed at restraining Iran’s nuclear ambitions.

“Sanctions alone are not sufficient,” Obama said. “If Iran does not have some sense that sanctions will be removed, it will not have an interest in avoiding the path that it’s currently on.”

The administration says there is no deal yet, but Netanyahu insists he is privy to what is being put forth.

“If the deal now being negotiated is accepted by Iran, that deal will not prevent Iran from developing nuclear weapons. It would all but guarantee that Iran gets those weapons - lots of them,” he declared. He acknowledged that any deal

would likely include strict inspections, but he said “inspectors document violations; they

don’t stop them.”

Obama declined to meet with the leader of Israel, a key U.S.

ally, during this visit. Vice President Joe Biden was on a trip to Central America and so his

Alabama Supreme Court halts gay-marriage licenses

By JAY REEVES
ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Alabama Supreme Court on Tuesday ordered the state’s probate judges to stop issuing marriage licenses to gay couples, saying a previous federal ruling that gay-marriage bans violate the U.S. Constitution does not preclude them from following state law, which defines marriage as between a man and a woman.

The all-Republican court sided with the argument of-

ferred by a pair of conservative organizations when they appealed a decision last month by U.S. District Judge Callie Granade of Mobile, who ruled that both Alabama’s constitutional and statutory bans on same-sex marriage were unconstitutional.

Six justices concurred in the 134-page opinion, which wasn’t signed, but the court’s most outspoken opponent of gay marriage, Chief Justice Roy Moore, recused himself.

Immediately after Granade’s ruling, Moore told probate judges across the state they were not obliged to issue same-sex

marriage licenses. His stance created widespread confusion, prompting some judges to refuse to issue the licenses and others to shut down their operations for all couples, gay and straight, until they could get a clear answer.

Justice Jim Main agreed with the result but said he has concerns about procedural aspects “of this highly unusual case.”

In a dissent, Justice Greg Shaw said it was “unfortunate” that federal courts refused to delay gay marriage in the state until the U.S. Supreme Court could settle the issue nationally. But, Shaw

seat as president of the Senate was filled by Republican Orrin Hatch of Utah, the Senate president pro tempore.

As Netanyahu spoke, Secretary of State John Kerry was holding a three-hour negotiating session with Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif in the Swiss resort of Montreux in hopes of completing an international framework agreement later this month to curb Tehran’s nuclear program.

According to Netanyahu, the deal on the table offers two major concessions: Iran would be left with a vast nuclear infrastructure and restrictions on Iran’s nuclear program would be lifted in about a decade.

“It doesn’t block Iran’s path to the bomb,” Netanyahu thundered. “It paves Iran’s path to the bomb.”

He said the U.S. and the other five nations in talks with Tehran should keep pressuring with economic sanctions because Tehran needs the deal most.

“Now, if Iran threatens to walk away from the table—and this often happens in a Persian bazaar—call their bluff. They’ll be back, because they need the deal a lot more than you do.”

California teacher found hanging knew suicide’s devastation

PLACENTIA, Calif. (AP)—The Southern California teacher whose students found her hanging from her classroom ceiling knew the devastating effects of suicide: Her own father went missing and was found dead with a bullet wound to his head after committing suicide nearly four years earlier.

Jillian Jacobson, 31, had spoken with students about her father’s suicide and had counseled one class of students just a few weeks ago, saying if they ever felt down, they should ask for help.

Jacobson did a weeklong unit on depression for freshmen, emphasizing that suicide wasn’t the answer to anyone’s problems and it affected many people greatly.

On Monday, students arriving to their morning photog-

raphy class found the door to Jacobson’s room locked. Thinking their teacher was late, the students asked another teacher to unlock the door. When they opened it, they found Jacobson hanging from the ceiling.

Two school staff members got her down while another worker called 911.

“We have a teacher that’s down,” the caller said in a hurried voice.

“Do you know if they’re breathing?” the 911 dispatcher said.

“All I know is another teacher called crying and security is just saying, ‘Get them down here fast,’” said the caller, identified only as Melanie.

Paramedics arrived to find Jacobson in full cardiac arrest, and they were unable to resuscitate her. Police are

calling Jacobson’s death a suicide, though no note was found and detectives are not releasing any information on what may have troubled the popular teacher.

Jacobson’s stunning death stood in stark contrast to the teacher students said they knew. They described her as someone cheerful and trusted who inspired in many a love of photography. She lived in nearby Anaheim in a quaint, gray home with a white picket fence.

Yet Jacobson had also experienced significant hardship in recent years. In 2011, her father went missing after leaving his job. Richard Prisbrey, 55, was found two days later, near his car in an isolated desert area more than an hour away. A coroner’s report ruled his death a suicide.

ACROSS THE NATION

72 passengers reach settlements in Asiana crash

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—More than 70 passengers aboard an Asiana Airlines flight that crashed in San Francisco two years ago have reached a settlement in their lawsuits against the airline, attorneys for the passengers and airline said in a court filing Tuesday. The settlement with 72 passengers who filed personal injury claims also includes Boeing Co., which made the airplane, and Air Cruisers Co., the New Jersey company that made its evacuation slides. The filing did not include the settlement’s financial terms, and plaintiffs’ attorney Frank Pitre said those details are

confidential. This is the first set of lawsuits stemming from the crash to be resolved, he said. Dozens of additional cases involving more than 70 plaintiffs are still pending in federal court in Northern California.

Man killed by Los Angeles police was wanted by US marshals

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A homeless man who was killed by Los Angeles police on Skid Row was living under an assumed name and was wanted for violating probation terms for a bank robbery conviction, French and U.S. officials said Tuesday. A law enforcement official identified Charley Saturnin Robinet, 39, as the man

police shot Sunday. The official wasn’t authorized to speak publicly and talked to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity. But Axel Cruau, the consul general for France in Los Angeles, said the man stole the identity of a French citizen and was living in the United States under an assumed name. He had applied for a French passport in the late 1990s to come to the United States to “pursue a career in acting.” Using the name Robinet, the man was identified as a French national in 2000 when he was convicted of robbing a Wells Fargo branch and pistol-whipping an employee in an effort to pay for acting classes at the Beverly Hills Playhouse.

Asia

Indonesia moves Australians ahead of expected executions

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—Two convicted Australian drug smugglers arrived Wednesday at an Indonesian island prison where they will be executed by firing squad with seven other foreigner prisoners and an Indonesian, as diplomatic squabbles persist over the executions.

The preparations at the execution site have been completed at Nusakambangan Island's maximum-security prison facilities, said Attorney General Muhammad Prasetyo.

Besides the two Australians—Andrew Chan, 31, and Myuran Sukumaran, 33—who have spent the past decade in a Bali prison, Raheem Agbaje Salami, 45, a Nigerian national who was born in Cordova, Spain, and 30-year-old Filipina Mary Jane Fiesta Veloso, were also to be transferred.

Prasetyo, speaking in the capital, Jakarta, did not give a date for the executions.

Media outside Kerobokan Penitentiary reported Chan and Sukumaran were taken away in two police armored



One of Indonesian police armored vehicles carrying two Australian prisoners arrives at Wijaya Pura port in Cilacap, Central Java, Indonesia, Wednesday, March 4, 2015.

ferred, plus two Nigerians and four men from Brazil, France, Ghana and Indonesia will be executed by a firing squad on the prison island off Indonesia's main island of Java. It was not immediately known how many have been transferred to the island.

The Nigerians face execution after their clemency requests were rejected by Indonesian President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo last month, said Attorney General's office spokesman Tony Spontana.

They are Silvester Obiekwe Nwolise, 39, and Okwudili Oyatanze, 40, whose clemency was rejected after he was caught running drug transactions from behind bars.

Jokowi has received phone calls from some foreign leaders asking that the executions be canceled, but rejected their requests. He vowed not to grant mercy to drug offenders because Indonesia is suffering a "drug emergency."

The Indonesian government last week recalled its newly designated ambassador for Brazil, Toto Riyanto, to protest the postponement of the approval of his credentials by Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff amid tensions over the imminent execution of its citizen, Rodrigo Gualarte, 42.

Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott has called on Indonesia to "reciprocate" for Australia's \$1 billion aid package after the 2004 tsunami by sparing his two countrymen.

Abbott said he had not spoken to Widodo since the prison transfer order was given Tuesday, but had made his views clear to the president in a conversation last week.

"Right now millions of Australians are feeling sick in their guts at the prospect of execution for these two," Abbott told reporters.

India orders TV stations not to give rapist a platform

NEW DELHI (AP)—Indian authorities ordered television stations Tuesday not to broadcast a documentary about a gang rape on a New Delhi bus in which one of the attackers blames the victim and says she could have avoided being killed if she had not fought back, a government official said.

The order followed an outcry over giving a convicted prisoner a nationwide platform to express repugnant views about a horrific crime that shocked Indians and prompted hundreds of thousands to take to the streets in protest. In response to the

2012 attack, India's government rushed through legislation doubling prison terms for rapists to 20 years and criminalizing voyeurism, stalking and the trafficking of women.

"What is there in spreading the views of a rapist?" said activist Vrinda Adiga.

The documentary, "India's Daughter" by British filmmaker Leslee Udwin, was to be shown on Sunday, International Women's Day, in India as well as in Britain, Denmark, Sweden and several other countries. The New Delhi Television, a private news channel, had

indicated it would air the program.

The documentary includes a jailhouse interview from 2013 with Mukesh Singh, who was among four men convicted and sentenced to be executed for the crime. A transcript of the interview was released Tuesday, and New Delhi Police Commissioner B.S. Bassi said police would ask a court to block the documentary's broadcast.

Later Tuesday, India's Information and Broadcasting Ministry ordered television channels not to air the documentary, a government official said on condition of

anonymity as he was not authorized to talk to reporters.

Activists noted that Singh showed no remorse for the crime, and that broadcasting his comments would be an insult to the memory of the woman.

The woman and a male friend were returning home from seeing a movie at an upscale mall when they were tricked by the men into getting on the bus, which the men had taken out for a joyride. The attackers beat her friend and took turns raping the woman. They penetrated her with a rod, leaving severe internal injuries that led to her death two weeks later.

vehicles in a pre-dawn operation involving scores of riot police. Australian media reported that they had arrived on the island under heavy guard.

Prison authorities had earlier turned away Chan's older brother Michael Chan who attempted a visit. Television footage showed Michael Chan walking away from the prison with his brother's Indonesian girlfriend, who was in tears.

Prison governor Sudjonggo, who goes by a single name, told reporters Chan and Sukumaran did not appear worried as they left the prison.

Sukumaran took several pencils in a plastic bag, clothes, a bible and a drawing book.

"He said: Thank you. Take care of his friends," Sudjonggo said.

The four convicts being trans-

PH suspends oil, gas exploration in disputed waters

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippine government has ordered the suspension of all exploration at an offshore oil and gas field because of an ongoing territorial dispute with China, a Filipino-British company said.

Oil and gas exploration company Forum Energy Plc. said the Department of Energy instructed it to halt all work in its contracted area at Reed Bank in the South China Sea off the western Philippine province of Palawan.

The Energy Department issued the order because the area "falls within the territorial disputed area of the West Philippine Sea which is the subject of a United Nations arbitration process between the Republic of the Philippines and People's Republic of China," it said in a

statement Monday.

Philex Petroleum Corp. owns 60.49 percent of Forum Energy, which has a 70 percent participating interest in the field. Philex chairman Manny Pangilinan said last year that the project has not attracted other investors because of concerns about offending China.

The territorial dispute between the Philippines and China, which claims vast areas of the South China Sea, has been escalating in recent years. In 2013, Manila challenged China's claim at an international tribunal in The Hague, angering Beijing.

Last year, President Benigno Aquino III expressed concern that two Chinese hydrographic ships sighted at disputed Reed Bank could be followed by an

attempt to drill for oil there.

In March 2011, Chinese ships tried to drive away a Philippine exploration vessel at Reed Bank. The Philippines deployed two air force planes but the Chinese patrol ships had left by the time the aircraft reached the contested area.

The Philippines also has filed diplomatic protests over Chinese land reclamation at several reefs in the region which resulted in the creation of new islands.

Last week, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Hong Lei defended China's activities in the region as "reasonable, legitimate and legal" and said it has exercised "restraint and responsibility."

Vietnam, Malaysia, Taiwan and Brunei also claim parts of the South China Sea.

UN urges Sri Lanka to quickly address mistrust of new gov't

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP)—A U.N. envoy urged Sri Lanka's new government on Tuesday to address skepticism among ethnic Tamils about its efforts to promote post-war reconciliation, saying there should be more progress in accountability and in human rights issues.

U.N. Undersecretary-General for Political Affairs Jeffrey Feltman said the government could improve trust by addressing detentions and disappearances of ethnic Tamils, clarifying the status of land seized by the military, and minimizing the impact of military deployment in the former war zone in northern Sri Lanka.

Feltman spent four days in the island nation, talking with top government officials and

activists and visiting Jaffna city in the former war zone.

He is the top U.N. official to visit Sri Lanka since the government came into power in January, defeating former President Mahinda Rajapaksa, who has been criticized for failing to achieve reconciliation and address accountability issues from the civil war that ended in 2009 with the defeat of separatist Tamil Tiger rebels.

President Maithripala Sirisena's government has called reconciliation a priority and promised to release private land occupied by the military during the war and free suspected rebels detained for many years without trial. He also fired a former military official who was the governor of the northern province, replacing

him with a civilian.

But Tamil politicians and civilians complain that the government is not moving fast enough.

"When I was in Jaffna yesterday, I heard great skepticism from people in the north about would some of those words really translate into tangible steps that would affect their life," Feltman told reporters.

The U.N. Human Rights Council was scheduled to release a report on war crime allegations against government soldiers and the rebels during the final months of the fighting. But it postponed the release from March until September after the new government requested more time, saying it wants to set up its own judicial mechanism to probe rights violations.

World

US on sidelines of key Iraqi battle against IS

BAGHDAD (AP)—Iranian-backed Shiite militias and Sunni tribes have joined Iraq's military in a major operation to retake Saddam Hussein's hometown from the Islamic State group, while the U.S.-led coalition has remained on the sidelines.

The campaign for Tikrit is a dress rehearsal for the real contest: The fight to recapture Mosul, Iraq's second-largest city and the extremists' biggest stronghold. But can a large-scale ground offensive alone succeed, without U.S.-led air support?

The Tikrit operation is aimed at stopping Islamic State fighters from closing in on Samarra, a Shiite holy city just to the south that tens of thousands of Shiite militiamen rushed to defend during the extremists' blitz



across northern Iraq last June.

One of the biggest campaigns in the heart of militant-controlled Iraq, the battle for Tikrit involves a complex mix of several Iraqi military brigades and

thousands of Shiite militiamen and Sunni tribal fighters. Directing the offensive with the aid of dozens of Iranian military advisers is a powerful Iranian general, Ghasem Soleimani, commander of the elite Revolutionary Guard's Quds Force.

Glaringly absent are the U.S.-led coalition forces whose air campaign since last summer has nearly halted the Islamic State rampage across Iraq. Pentagon spokesman Army Col. Steve Warren said this week that the U.S. is not providing air power in the Tikrit operation "simply because the Iraqis haven't requested us to."

Liberating the city without the backing of coalition airstrikes will put Iraq's security forces to the ultimate battle-readiness test since any



This image made from video posted by IraqiORevolution, a group supporting the al-Qaida breakaway Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) on Wednesday, June 11, 2014, which has been verified and is consistent with other AP reporting, shows a militant standing in front of a burning Iraqi Army Humvee in Tikrit, Iraq.

Yemeni leader proposes Riyadh as venue for talks with rebels

SANAA, Yemen (AP)—Yemen's president on Tuesday proposed the Saudi capital of Riyadh as a possible venue for the resumption of U.N.-sponsored talks with Shiite rebels who have seized Yemen's own capital, Sanaa.

Yemen is embroiled in a political crisis that threatens to split the country. The U.N.-mediated talks are aimed at breaking the political stalemate between the rebels known as the Houthis and Yemeni President Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi.

The talks come at a time when Yemen's al-Qaida branch, considered by Washington the terror network's most dangerous offshoot, is stepping up attacks against the Shiite rebels in the central province of Bayda.

Around midday Tuesday, a suicide car bomber targeted the gate of a rebel compound in the city of Bayda, killing eight rebels and wounding 22. The attack was followed by a firefight between the rebels and several attackers.

Earlier, the Houthis also suffered heavy casualties in overnight clashes with al-Qaida elsewhere in Bayda province, according to security officials and residents. They said at least 25 rebels were killed in three different locations, along with at least seven militants. The officials and the residents spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to talk to the media.

Al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula, as the Yemeni branch is known, claimed responsibility for the attacks in postings on

its Twitter accounts.

The U.N. Security Council council got a closed-door briefing late Tuesday from U.N. special envoy Jamal Benomar, who is trying to mediate an end to the crisis.

France's U.N. Ambassador Francois Delattre, the current council president, said members again called for a quick political agreement and stressed that "the unity of Yemen is our strategic priority."

Hadi's offer of Riyadh as negotiations' venue came during a meeting with tribal leaders in Aden, where he has been based since fleeing house arrest in Sanaa last month, according to two participants and a presidential aide who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to talk to the media.

As Nemtsov buried, Russian opposition faces gloomy future

MOSCOW (AP)—After paying their final tributes Tuesday to slain Kremlin critic Boris Nemtsov, many members of Russia's beleaguered opposition are looking into the future with gloom.

The sadness and loss that drew thousands to Nemtsov's funeral is unlikely to add vigor to the small and marginalized opposition, or dent the broad public support for President Vladimir Putin.

Many believe that his shooting death on a bridge near the Kremlin wouldn't have been possible without official involvement, and that sends a chilling signal to government opponents, who fear it could herald a new, brutal era of reprisals.

Thousands of mourners and dignitaries filed past Nemtsov's white-lined coffin, and many wept as they offered flowers.

"He was our ray of light. With his help, I think Russia would have risen up and become a strong country," said 80-year-old Valentina Gorbatoeva.

So many came that when the viewing ended after its scheduled four hours, a line still stretched for hundreds of meters (yards) outside the hall named for the Soviet-era dissident and Nobel Peace Prize laureate Andrei Sakharov.

Mourner Marsel Shamsudinov said he had come from Kazan, 700 kilometers (450 miles) east of Moscow, to show that unlike the vast majority of Russians who watch nothing but state-run TV, there are people "who do think and see that the government system is unfair and that we need to change a lot in our country."

But while feelings of anger and grief ran strong at the funeral, few believe that the

opposition—fragmented and weakened after years of relentless crackdowns—could pose a serious challenge to Putin, who is supported by 85 percent of Russians, according to recent polls.

Kremlin critics say the virulent nationalist propaganda on state television, which cast the 55-year-old Nemtsov and other liberals as Western stooges, helped prepare the ground for his killing on Friday night.

Nemtsov had been a deputy prime minister under Russia's first elected president, Boris Yeltsin, who touted him as his likely successor before opting instead for Putin. Although his influence in mainstream politics vanished, Nemtsov had remained one of Putin's most vehement critics. In a radio interview a few hours before his death, he denounced the president for his "mad, aggressive" policies in Ukraine.

operation to recapture Iraq's densely-populated cities—including Mosul and Fallujah—will have to rely almost entirely on ground forces to minimize civilian casualties.

However, more of a concern for the U.S.-led coalition is Iran's prominent role in the fight against the Islamic State militants. Iran has long been influential in Iraq, but never so much so as over the past year, when the Iraqi military collapsed in the face of the Sunni extremists' onslaught. Iraqi of-

ficials have noted Iran's quick response to their urgent requests for weapons and frontline assistance even as they accuse the coalition of falling short on commitments on the ground.

Embedding coalition advisers and forward air controllers—the officers who call in airstrikes—with Iraqi military units presents a twofold challenge. Frontline positions would put their lives in danger at a time when risk aversion is at its peak. But it also raises the potential for coalition

forces and Iranian soldiers to share a battlefield, a politically untenable prospect for the U.S. given the uncertain future of ongoing nuclear talks with Tehran.

However, the U.S.-led mission has hit a roadblock in its efforts to support the Iraqi government. Both the Iraqi and U.S. government agree that airstrikes have pushed the militants back and the group has struggled to gain territory since airstrikes began. But there will come a point where airstrikes alone will not be enough.

Villarrica volcano erupts in southern Chile, thousands flee

PUCON, Chile (AP)—One of South America's most active volcanoes erupted early Tuesday in southern Chile, spewing heavy smoke into the air as lava surged down its slopes, prompting authorities to evacuate thousands of people.

The Villarrica volcano erupted around 3 a.m. local time, according to the National Emergency Office, which issued a red alert and ordered evacuations. Local media showed images of the volcano bursting at the top, glowing in the dark amid heavy smoke and rivers of lava. Authorities worried that mudslides caused by melting snow could endanger nearby communities, but no injuries were reported.

The 9,000 foot (2,847-meter) volcano in Chile's central valley, 400 miles (670 kilometers) south of Santiago, sits above the small city of Pucón, which has a population of about 22,000 people.

"It was the most amazing thing I've ever seen," 29-year-old Australian tourist Travis Armstrong said in a telephone interview from Pucón. "I've never seen a volcano erupt and



it was spewing lava and ash hundreds of meters into the air. Lightning was striking down at the volcano from the ash cloud that formed from the eruption."

Chilean authorities had issued an orange alert on Monday because of increased activity at the volcano. About 3,500 people have been evacuated so far, including tourists, said Interior and Security Minister Rodrigo Penailillo.

Penailillo warned that the eruption was causing numerous rivers in the area to rise as

snow along the sides of the volcano began melting. Villarrica is covered by a glacier cap covering some 40 square kilometers (15 square miles) and snow from about 1,500 meters (about 5,000 feet) on up.

Authorities were keeping an eye on four nearby communities that could be endangered by mudslides as the snow melts. Officials were also monitoring nearly 200 people who were cut off from main roads when two bridges were destroyed by rising waters from nearby rivers.

Rodrigo Alvarez, director of the National Service of Geology and Mining, issued a warning for people in the area, especially at tourists, to be careful. "This is not a fireworks show," Alvarez said, calling on people to obey official prohibitions to stay away from the volcano.

"It's an unstable volcano, all of its borders are altered," Alvarez added.

President Michelle Bachelet arrived in Pucón amid cheers and boos later Tuesday to check on safety preparations, and declared an agricultural emergency to help local farmers.

Environment

Overfishing driving slavery on Thailand’s seafood boats

By ROBIN McDOWELL and MARGIE MASON
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SAMUT SAKHON, Thailand (AP)—Urine pools under a bed where an emaciated Burmese man lies wearing only a T-shirt and a diaper.

As he struggles to sit up and steady himself, he tears at his thick, dark hair in agitation. He cannot walk and doesn’t remember his family or even his own name. He speaks mostly gibberish in broken Indonesian—a language he learned while working in the country as a slave aboard a Thai fishing boat.

Near death from a lack of proper food, he was rescued from a tiny island in Indonesia two months ago. He is just one of countless hidden casualties from the fishing industry in Thailand, the world’s third-largest seafood exporter.

A report released Wednesday by the British nonprofit Environmental Justice Foundation said that overfishing and the use of illegal and undocumented trawlers have ravaged Thailand’s marine ecosystems and depleted fish stocks. Boats are now catching about 85 percent less than what they brought in 50 years ago, making it “one of the most overfished regions on the planet,” the report said.

Shrinking fisheries in the Gulf of Thailand and Andaman Sea have, in turn, pushed Thai fishing boats farther and farther from home. The group estimates that up to half of all fish labeled a “product of Thailand” is sourced from outside its borders—mainly in Asia, but as far away as Africa.

The report, compiled from the group’s own research and the work of others, explains how Thailand’s vast seafood indus-



In this Friday, Dec. 12, 2014 photo, Min Min, from Myanmar, consumes a vitamin drink. Min is just one of countless hidden casualties of the international demand for cheap fish.

try is almost wholly dependent on cheap migrant labor. Since few Thais are willing to take the dangerous, low-level jobs that can take them far from home, a sophisticated network of brokers and agents has emerged, regularly recruiting laborers from impoverished neighboring countries such as Myanmar and Cambodia, often through trickery and kidnapping.

Men—and sometimes children as young as 13—are sold onto boats where they typically work 18- to 20-hour days with little food and often only boiled sea water to drink, enduring beatings and sometimes even death at the hands in their captains. Most are paid little or nothing. They can be trapped at sea for months or years at a time; transshipment vessels are routinely used to pick up catch-

es and deliver supplies.

Concerns about labor abuses, especially at sea, prompted the U.S. State Department last year to downgrade Thailand to the lowest level in its annual human trafficking report, putting the country on par with North Korea, Iran and Syria. It highlighted abuse on both ships and in processing plants, noting widespread involvement from corrupt officials.

The Southeast Asian nation responded by launching a major public relations campaign, with the government drafting its own country assessment to highlight steps taken to clean up the industry since a military junta took control of Thailand in May. The unreleased Thai report, obtained by The Associated Press, includes establishing a new national registry of illegal

migrant workers and plans for stricter labor regulations on vessels and in the seafood industry.

However, just a month after the new government stepped in, Thailand was the only country in the world to vote against a U.N. international treaty aimed at stopping forced labor.

“If you drill down, if you look at the substance of enforcement and the implementation of existing laws and regulations, it’s minimal,” said Steve Trent, the group’s executive director. “What the Thai government seems to do repeatedly, again and again in the face of these accusations, is conduct a high-powered PR exercise rather than seek to address the problem.”

Thailand, which exported \$7 billion in seafood in 2013, is one of the biggest suppliers to the U.S. But a study published last year in

the journal *Marine Policy* estimated 25 percent to 40 percent of tuna shipped from Thailand to America is from illegal or unreported sources—the highest rate of any species or country examined—and is frequently linked to labor abuses at sea.

Human rights advocates say some improvements have been noted in domestic waters, but such policies have little impact when vessels stray into the territorial waters of other countries. Traveling longer distances to catch fish raises operating costs, and increases pressure on fishing companies to save money by relying on forced, bonded and slave labor.

“On long-haul boats, nothing has changed in the brutal working conditions and physical abuse meted out by captains against their crews,” said Phil

Robertson, deputy director of Human Rights Watch’s Asia division, who has worked extensively on the issue. “The reality is the Thai government’s high-sounding rhetoric to stop human trafficking and clean up the fishing fleets still largely stops at the water’s edge.”

The man rescued from the Indonesian island in December now remembers his name—Min Min—and bits of his old life in Myanmar, also known as Burma. But his mind remains far from clear.

He knows he worked three years on a boat in Indonesia where his ankles were sometimes bound with rope. He recalls collapsing one day on deck during a storm and being unconscious for three hours before the Thai captain forced him to get up and haul the nets back in.

Eventually, he became too sick and weak to work and was abandoned on the remote island two years ago.

Min Min was on the verge of starvation when he was rescued and taken to the nonprofit Labor Rights Protection Network in Samut Sakhon, a gritty port town on the outskirts of Bangkok. He’s eating well and taking vitamins to try to regain his strength, and he can now stand and slowly shuffle across the floor.

He is still far from well. He’s confused about such basics as his age, saying once that he is 43 and later that he is 36. If his family back in Myanmar is mentioned, he becomes rattled and stutters his thoughts as if it’s too much to bear.

“Working on the boat is no good. People like to take advantage of you,” he said. “If I recover from my illness, I’ll never be on a boat again in my life. Never again. I’m scared.”

Accord reached to slow deforestation, but questions remain

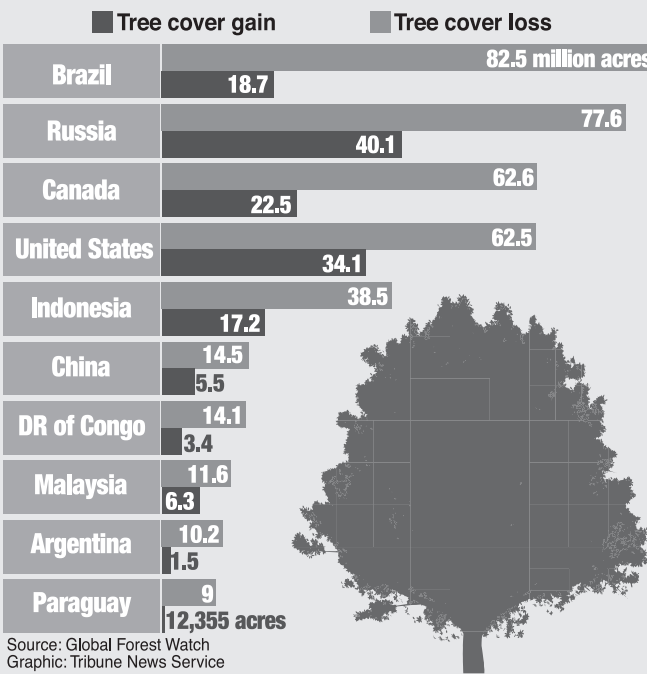
By NEELA BANERJEE
TRIBUNE WASHINGTON BUREAU

NEW YORK—Moving to halt a powerful contributor to climate change, the United States has joined more than 110 corporations, civil society groups and governments to launch a global initiative to reduce deforestation sharply over the next 15 years, with the goal of eliminating the practice by 2030.

The “New York Declaration on Forests,” unveiled at the United Nations Climate Summit on Tuesday, would reduce between 4.5 billion and 8.8 billion tons of greenhouse gases annually, according to the United Nations Development Program. The effort would be equal to “removing from the road every car in the world, or not burning a trillion pounds of coal, or turning off every

Countries of greatest tree loss

Countries showing tree loss versus tree gain in millions of acres, from 2001-2012



smokestack and tailpipe” in the U.S., the UNDP said.

Crafted as a marquee initiative at a summit long on rhetoric but short on concrete steps, the new deforestation initiative goes further than previous efforts, in the scope of participation and targets. Besides the U.S., participating states include wealthy nations that could help fund reforestation efforts, such as Canada, European Union members, Norway and the United Kingdom. Countries where deforestation is widespread, such as Indonesia and the Democratic Republic of Congo, have also signed on. Corporate participants include Wal-Mart, McDonald’s, Danone, L’Oreal, agricultural giant Cargill and Asia Pulp and Paper, which until recently had been responsible for widespread deforestation.

Yet from the outset, problems

in the initiative have emerged. China and India, two of the three largest carbon polluters in the world, have not signed on, though other participants can join later. Brazil, where deforestation is on the upswing after years of decline, has also declined to participate.

Greenpeace, the architect of a publicity campaign that pushed Asia Pulp and Paper to change its forestry practices, was among several deforestation activists absent from the accord. The group welcomed the plan, but said its voluntary commitments were too weak. Under the accord, countries and companies are not required to meet annual goals, signatories do not spell out how they plan to end deforestation and there is no system of verification or penalties for failing to miss targets.

“We need strong laws to pro-

tect forests and people, as well as better enforcement of existing laws,” said Kumi Naidoo, Greenpeace International executive director. “Halting the global loss of natural forests by 2030 and eliminating deforestation from agricultural commodities by 2020 at the latest would mean that years of continued forest clearance still lie ahead of us.”

Forests are critical to stabilizing temperatures because they absorb heat-trapping carbon dioxide. But mining, livestock pasturing and cultivation of commodity crops have fueled vast deforestation. The clear-cutting and burning of trees contributes about 15 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions. Up to 58,000 square miles of forest are lost annually, or the equivalent of 36 football fields every minute, according to the World Wildlife Fund.

Life & Style

Sony plans to launch virtual-reality headset in 2016

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Sony plans on putting its virtual-reality headset on consumers’ noggins next year.

The gaming and electronics company announced Tuesday at the Game Developers Conference that its VR system nicknamed Project Morpheus will debut in the first half of 2016.

Sony Corp. originally unveiled a prototype of the headset at last year’s gathering of video game developers. The headset works in tandem with Sony’s PlayStation 4 console and camera by covering users’ vision and simulating virtual worlds on screen.

Sony flaunted an updated version of the VR headset prototype at Tuesday’s event. While it largely resembles the prototype introduced last year, the new version redistributes weight to-

ward the back of the user’s head and features a screen that can slide back and forth to accommodate eyeglasses.

The new prototype also features a larger 5.7-inch OLED screen that displays nearly a 100-degree field of view and is capable of rendering imagery at up to 120 frames per second. There are nine LED lights on the headset’s exterior that are to track movement.

No price was announced.

“Our goal with VR is to deliver a sense of presence, making the player feel as though they’ve stepped inside the world of a game,” said Shuhei Yoshida, president of Sony Computer Entertainment Worldwide Studios.



In this March 19, 2014 file photo, Marcus Ingvarsson tests out the PlayStation 4 virtual reality headset Project Morpheus in a demo area at the Game Developers Conference 2014 in San Francisco.

“The new Project Morpheus prototype brings us closer to that goal, as it improves the visual experience and tracking accuracy, both of which are critical to achieving sense of presence.”

The company showed off the new prototype at Tuesday’s event with four technical demonstrations, including a game that utilized a pair of PlayStation Move controllers to simulate a shootout inside a lavish building in London and a more passive presentation that featured tiny robots responding to users’ movements.

Sony is among several gaming and electronics companies working to bring VR into homes. HTC and Valve announced plans Sunday to release its Vive VR system to consumers later this year, while Oculus VR has yet to reveal when its Oculus Rift headset will be available to consumers.

Canadians ‘Spocking’ the image of ex-PM on \$5 bill

OTTAWA, Ontario (AP)—The death of actor Leonard Nimoy last week has inspired people to post photos on social media of marked-up five-dollar Canadian banknotes that show former prime minister Wilfrid Laurier transformed to resemble Spock, Nimoy’s famous “Star Trek” character.

For years, Canadians have been wielding pens to draw Spock’s pointy Vulcan ears, sharp eyebrows and signature bowl haircut on the five’s image of Laurier, Canada’s first Francophone prime minister. The likeness is remarkable.

Canada’s central bank said this week it’s not illegal to deface or even mutilate banknotes,

although there are laws that prohibit reproducing a current bill electronically.

Nonetheless, bank spokeswoman Josianne Menard said Tuesday that scribbling on bills is inappropriate because it defaces a Canadian symbol and source of national pride. Menard said defaced bills may not circulate for as long and risk being rejected by retailers. “There are important reasons why it should not be done,” she said in an email.

Following Nimoy’s death Friday, social media users posted their own versions of Laurier’s Vulcan makeover to honor the actor.

“Spock your \$5 bills for

Leonard Nimoy,” a group called the Canadian Design Resource tweeted alongside its depiction.

Images of the altered bills circulated widely online and attracted international media attention to something many Canadians had never seen before—although for others, it was hardly a new frontier.

Calgary artist Tom Bagley, who posted his own Spock-Laurier hybrid on Facebook and Flickr after Nimoy’s death, described it as an old bar trick to impress the waitress.

“I always thought it was OK as long as the numbers were intact—it still counted as money,” he said. “That’s what I heard. Because stuff happens, like say you spill spaghetti sauce all over it or something like that.”

Prince William to meet elephants on final day of China tour

BEIJING (AP)—Britain’s Prince William highlighted his interest in wildlife conservation Wednesday by making the final stop on his China tour an area in the country’s southwest that is home to wild Asian elephants.

The prince planned to spend Wednesday in Xishuangbanna in Yunnan province, a tropical region bordering Myanmar and

Laos that has been the focus of government efforts to stop poaching.

He was scheduled to travel to a village and hear people describe how they are adapting to living in close proximity to wild elephants, visit a nature reserve and meet injured elephants.

William, who regularly speaks out against wildlife

trafficking, was expected to bring up the plight of African elephants, tens of thousands of which have been slaughtered in recent years to meet a surging appetite for ivory in Asia, primarily China.

Last week, China banned ivory imports for one year in the hope that would help reduce the demand for African tusks



Prince William

and protect wild elephants. There is still no ban on ivory trade within the country, and conservationists say legal sales provide cover for a thriving black market.

William told President Xi Jinping on Monday that he hopes China can become a world leader in the field of wildlife conservation, according to the official Xinhua News Agency. During their meeting, Xi explained China’s policies and work protecting elephants and other wild animals and told the prince that he hopes to strengthen international cooperation in this field.

William arrived in China on Sunday after a four-day trip to Japan. In Beijing, he met Chinese political leaders as well as young people from disadvantaged backgrounds—another issue close to his heart.

He crossed over into the business world in Shanghai and met entrepreneurs while launching a festival to promote British creativity and innovation. He also attended the China premiere of British-French film “Paddington.”

Tena Stivicic’s ‘3 Winters’ wins Blackburn Prize

NEW YORK (AP)—Tena Stivicic was still buzzing a day after winning the oldest and most prestigious playwriting prize for women with her sweeping play about four generations of women growing up in Croatia after World War II.

The London-based author of “3 Winters,” which was produced at the National Theatre in London in December 2014, was awarded the international Susan Smith Blackburn Prize and \$25,000 on Monday night at a ceremony at Playwrights Horizon.

Stivicic said Tuesday she wrote the play in part to try to address the imbalance in the male-dominated theater community and urged more women to both write more plays and write from a female perspective.

“The problem is we’ve all internalized this perspective so it seems perfectly natural to look at the world from the male

perspective,” she said. “A lot of women have internalized it. It doesn’t even occur to us that it doesn’t represent life.”

She beat out 11 prize finalists: Lisa D’Amour, Alice Birch, Alecky Blythe, Clare Barron, Clara Brennan, Katherine Chandler, Frances Ya-Chu Cowhig, Lindsey Ferrentino, Zodia Nyoni, Heidi Schreck and Ruby Rae Spiegel. The nominated plays took audiences across four continents and ranged from the political to the personal.

Stivicic hopes the prize will spur interest in a New York-based production of “3 Winters,” adding: “It is ostensibly a play about a family in Croatia but it deals with so many themes and subject matters that I think are relatable.”

The prize was created to honor of Susan Smith Blackburn, who died of breast cancer in 1977 and honors English-language

women playwrights. Eight Blackburn finalist plays have gone on to win the Pulitzer Prize for Drama and some Blackburn winners include Annie Baker, Katori Hall, Sarah Ruhl, Paula Vogel and Naomi Wallace.

Stivicic already plans to write another play for the National Theatre and later this year hopes cameras will roll on an independent film adaptation of her play “Invisible,” which explores the many sides of migration.

The judges for the 37th Susan Smith Blackburn Prize this year were Chay Yew, Liesl Tommy, Carmen Herlihy, Bijan Sheibani, Rona Munro and actress Rebecca Hall.

In her remarks, Hall noted that women account for roughly 70 percent of theatergoing audiences in both England and America and yet women’s plays are far less likely to be produced than men’s.

CHART TOPPERS	
The top iPhone and iPad apps on App Store for the week ending March 2, 2015:	
TOP PAID IPHONE APPS <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Facebook Messenger, Facebook, Inc.2. Facebook, Facebook, Inc.3. Instagram, Instagram, Inc.4. YouTube, Google, Inc.5. Snapchat, Snapchat, Inc.6. Pandora Radio, Pandora Media, Inc.7. Trivia Crack, Etermax8. Dubsmash, Mobile Motion GmbH9. WhatsApp Messenger, WhatsApp Inc.10. Google Maps, Google, Inc.	TOP PAID IPAD APPS <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Minecraft - Pocket Edition, Mojang2. Five Nights at Freddy's 2, Scott Cawthon3. Trivia Crack (Ad Free), Etermax4. Fruit Ninja, Halfbrick Studios5. Five Nights at Freddy's, Scott Cawthon6. Geometry Dash, RobTop Games AB7. Frozen Story Theater, Disney8. Heads Up!, Warner Bros.9. Monument Valley, ustwo10. Terraria, 505 Games (US), Inc.
TOP FREE IPHONE APPS <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Facebook Messenger, Facebook, Inc.2. Facebook, Facebook, Inc.3. Instagram, Instagram, Inc.4. YouTube, Google, Inc.5. Snapchat, Snapchat, Inc.6. Pandora Radio, Pandora Media, Inc.7. Trivia Crack, Etermax8. Dubsmash, Mobile Motion GmbH9. WhatsApp Messenger, WhatsApp Inc.10. Google Maps, Google, Inc.	TOP FREE IPAD APPS <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. YouTube Kids, Google, Inc.2. YouTube, Google, Inc.3. Facebook Messenger, Facebook, Inc.4. Facebook, Facebook, Inc.5. Netflix, Netflix, Inc.6. Crossy Road - Endless Arcade H..., HIPSTER WHALE7. Agent Alice, wooga8. Candy Crush Soda Saga, King.com Limited9. Microsoft Word, Microsoft Corporation10. Pinterest, Pinterest, Inc.

Carrie Underwood becomes a mom, gives birth to a boy

NEW YORK (AP)—Carrie Underwood is a new mom, and like all proud parents, she's showing him off in a photo.

The multiplatinum country

singer gave birth to Isaiah Michael Fisher on Friday, and on Tuesday, she announced it to the world on Twitter. She posted a picture of Isaiah, showing his tiny hand and a

bit of his mouth.

He is the first child for Underwood, 31, and her husband, Mike Fisher, who plays for the National Hockey League's Nashville Predators.

Man charged in deadly stabbing of Nicki Minaj crew member

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—A Philadelphia man already facing an attempted murder charge in the stabbings of two members of Nicki Minaj's tour has been charged with murder.

Homicide Capt. James Clark says 31-year-old Pierce Boykin was charged Tuesday with murder in the stabbing death of

29-year-old Devon Pickett. The double stabbing outside a bar last month left Pickett dead and a second member of Minaj's tour severely wounded. Minaj says the crew members had arrived in Philadelphia to rehearse for a tour.

Boykin was originally charged with attempted mur-

der in the stabbing of the man who was wounded. Clark says the murder charge was tacked on after additional evidence pointed to Boykin for both stabbings.

Boykin is in custody, and an attorney for him could not be reached to comment on the charges.



AP
In this Monday, Dec. 15, 2014, file photo, country artist Carrie Underwood poses at the 2014 American Country Countdown Awards Red Carpet at the Music City Center in Nashville, Tenn.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Winfrey's Harpo Studios in Chicago to close in December

CHICAGO (AP)—Oprah Winfrey will close Harpo Studios in Chicago, where she filmed "The Oprah Winfrey Show" for more than 20 years, this December, and will transition production for her cable network to a studio in California. Harpo Studios and the Oprah Winfrey Network made the announcement Tuesday. OWN recently moved into a new studio in West Hollywood, California, and work currently done at Harpo Studios in Chicago will now be done there. Winfrey sold the Harpo Studios property in Chicago's West Loop neighborhood to a developer last year for about \$32 million. She said in a statement Tuesday that Harpo Studios has been a "blessing" in her life and she's now "looking ahead" to inhabiting her California studio. The city named the street outside Harpo Studios

"Oprah Winfrey Way" in 2011.

Officials: Grateful Dead fans can't camp during concerts

CHICAGO (AP)—Officials in Chicago say Grateful Dead fans won't be allowed to camp out during three 50th anniversary concerts over the summer. Fans had asked for overnight permits for parking lots around Soldier Field over the Fourth of July weekend. Soldier Field spokesman Luca Serra tells the Chicago Tribune that safety was a top consideration in the decision not to grant permits. Roughly 60,000 to 70,000 people are expected to attend each sold-out concert. Soldier Field doesn't usually have events later than 11 p.m., after which tailgating isn't allowed. Serra says there will be increased security with police and fire crews for traffic management. Soldier Field has allowed overnight parking just once—for a 2007 college

football game when some fans requested it.

Chrissie Hynde memoir coming in September

NEW YORK (AP)—Chrissie Hynde will tell the story of her life, with all its ups and downs. Penguin Random House announced Tuesday that the Pretenders singer was working on an "incredibly frank" memoir that will come out Sept. 8. The book is currently untitled. According to Doubleday, Hynde will write about her childhood in Akron, Ohio, offer a "strikingly intimate portrayal" of the punk rock scene of the 1970s and a "bittersweet" look back at the Pretenders, who had such hits as "Brass in Pocket" and "Talk of the Town," but lost two original band members to drug-related deaths. Hynde, 63, said in a statement issued through her publisher that she hoped her book would make people dance, have fun, possibly cry and maybe reach for a guitar.

Reports of Maggie Smith's 'Downton' exit may be premature

LONDON (AP)—Predictions of doom for the Dowager Countess of Grantham may be premature.

"Downton Abbey" publicists say Maggie Smith was misinterpreted in remarks widely reported as suggesting she will leave the TV show after its sixth season

later this year.

Smith told the Sunday Times newspaper that "I can't see how ('Downton') could go on."

Speaking of her character, she added: "I mean, I certainly can't keep going. To my knowledge, I must be 110 by now."

Milk Publicity said Tuesday that Smith spoke lightheart-

edly, and "has always been on the record as saying she'll be with the show for as long as the show runs."

Producers haven't announced whether the show will have a seventh season. Creator Julian Fellowes is due to script a U.S. period drama, "The Gilded Age."

Hilton brother Conrad agrees to plead to assault on flight

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Federal prosecutors in Los Angeles say Paris Hilton's brother Conrad has agreed to plead guilty to assaulting flight attendants on a trip from London last year.

The U.S. attorney's office says Hilton signed the agreement Tuesday. He's set to appear in court Thursday but will officially plead guilty to the misdemeanor later.

The offense carries a maximum sentence of six months in jail, a year of probation and a \$5,000 fine, but prosecutors agreed to ask for just probation.

Charging documents say Hilton threatened to kill the flight atten-

dants and his behavior was so disruptive that children were crying.

The documents say Hilton was in a rage for most of the

10-hour flight because he was angry over breaking up with a girlfriend and wanted to smoke marijuana.



AP
In this Sept. 30, 2008, file photo, Conrad Hilton, left, Kathy Hilton, center, and Rick Hilton arrive at the launch party of new MTV series "Paris Hilton's My New BFF" in Los Angeles.

Cereal and hot coffee are all early-rising houseguest needs

DEAR ABBY: A family member, "Bill," likes to come visit in the afternoons and, because he's not comfortable driving in the dark, he always plans to stay overnight. When he does, he wakes up very early, often before 6 a.m.

Bill tries to be as quiet as possible, but we know when he is up. Our dog hears someone moving around and thinks it's time to go out and eat. My husband or I will get up to take care of our dog, but at that point, it seems rude to go back to bed. My husband likes to go back to sleep, but I feel I should get up and entertain our guest. Is it bad manners to go back to sleep even though it is still very early?

TO SLEEP, OR NOT TO SLEEP

DEAR T.S. or N.T.S.: If you need your sleep, go back to bed. The right amount of sleep is important, and not getting it can ruin one's entire day.

If you're concerned about Bill not having a good breakfast, before going to bed, put the coffeemaker on "automatic" and show him where the cereal is kept. That's not being a bad hostess, and I'm sure Bill will be just fine.

DEAR ABBY: My letter is in response to "A Mom in Connecticut" (Dec. 27), who feels she is being "fitted in" because her daughter calls her only while driving in her car.

My daughter calls me almost every morning on her way to work. She calls me her "commute buddy." It gives us 10 to 15 minutes to catch up, vent about "stuff" on both ends of the phone, or just chat. I can tell when she arrives at work or very nearly, and we always end with "Love you."

I love our conversations and the fact that although she has an extremely busy schedule she finds the time to chat with me. She uses her hands-free phone, so I don't worry too much about her being distracted.

SHEILA IN PRESCOTT, ARIZ.

DEAR SHEILA: You may not be worried about your daughter using a hands-free phone, but others have a different view. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: Drivers on cellphones—even hands-free—are four times more likely to crash and hurt themselves or someone else within five minutes of making a call. Texters are 23 times more likely to crash. More than 3,000 people are killed this way each year and 300,000 to 500,000 are injured. The daughter should not be using a phone at all while driving.

How do I know the statistics? My son was killed by a driver on a cellphone.

GARY IN KENOSHA, WIS.

DEAR ABBY

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



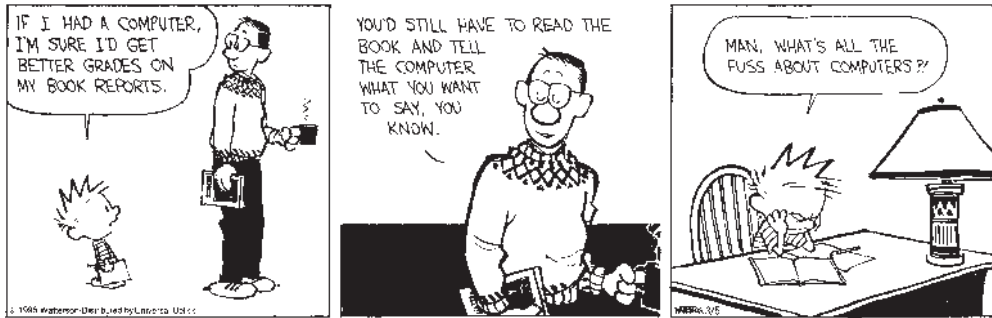
DEAR GARY: Please accept my condolences for the tragic loss of your son. You are generous to have written. Too often people take the privilege of driving for granted, forgetting that if they don't concentrate fully on driving, they place themselves and those around them in danger. I see this happen often, and I'm afraid that unless the consequences are draconian, it will continue.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



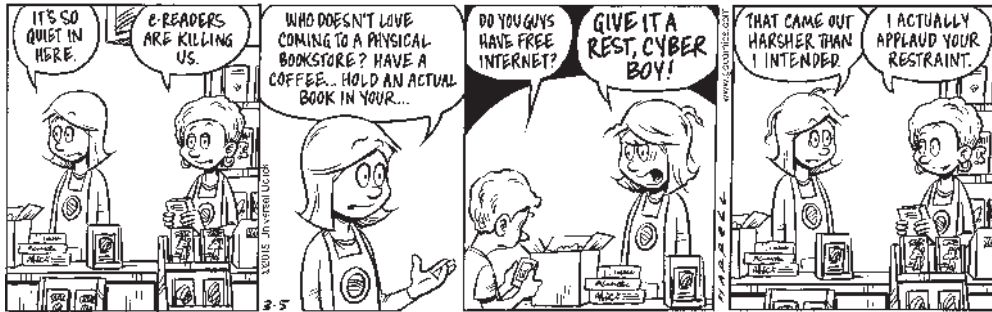
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



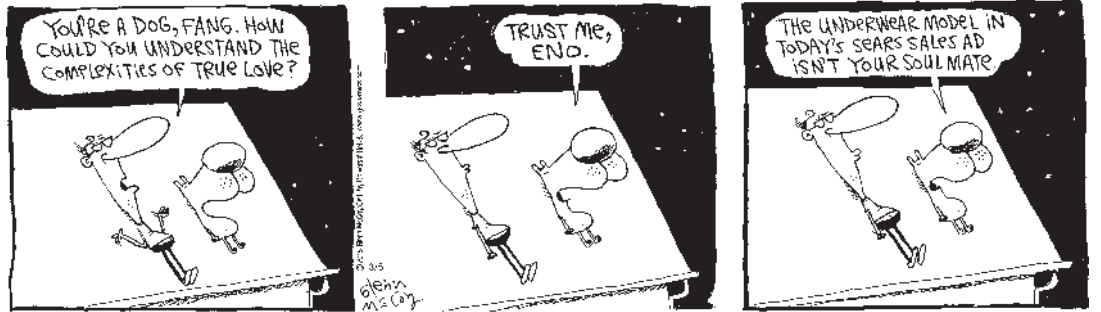
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

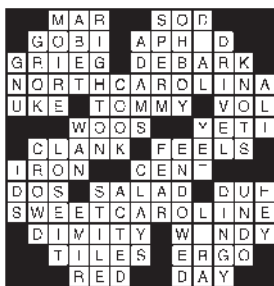


CROSSWORD

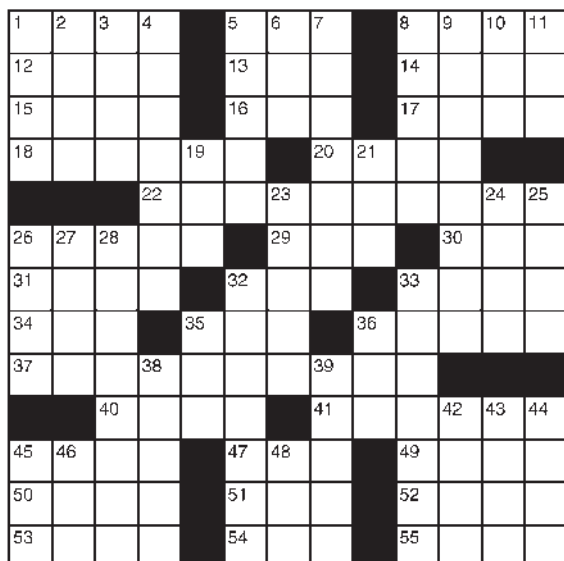
By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- 1 Rhyming tributes
5 — de
8 Satiated
12 Mentor
13 Mythical beast
14 Possess
15 Hideaway
16 Harry's successor
17 Terrible fellow?
18 Football team
20 Baseball team
22 Placing first, second or third
26 Jobs in technology?
29 Mound stat
30 Decorate Easter eggs
31 Dorothy's destination
32 Soar
33 Warmth
- DOWN**
- 34 Acapulco gold?
35 Benicio — Toro
36 Language of Iran
37 Exactly right
40 "The Music Man" locale
41 Make bubbly
45 Isinglass
47 Back talk
49 Concept
50 Stench
51 Lamb's mama
52 Pub missile
53 Frogs' hangout
54 "Mayday!"
55 Messes up
11 Longing
19 Compass dir.
21 "— Little Teapot"
23 Greeting
24 Nestling hawk
25 Himalayan legend
26 "Scat!"
27 Ripped
28 Smiley in an email, e.g.
32 Cows and sows
33 Rural outing
35 Morning moisture
36 Doctor's due
38 Stockpile
39 Scruffs
42 Hebrew month
43 Yukon, for ex.
44 Corrodes
45 Swab the deck
46 Altar affirmative
48 — Jima

Solution time: 24 mins.



Yesterday's answer 3-5



STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Kevin Connolly, 41; Matt Lucas, 41; Eva Mendes, 41; Dean Stockwell, 79.

Happy Birthday: Clutter will hold you back. Organization, preparation and a strategic plan will be the only route to getting ahead. Go over past regrets and make amends, or at least set the record straight with anyone whom you feel can influence your future. Personal and professional partnerships will face troubles if deception or disillusionment are allowed. Stick to the facts. Your numbers are 5, 9, 19, 23, 32, 34, 41.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Check facts before you move forward with any changes that can affect your income. Impulsive action will lead to worry and regret. You will do much better taking your time and sizing up possible scenarios before making a move. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Secret dealings will have a negative influence on the outcome of a situation at work. Stick to a budget and don't feel guilty if you can't or don't want to contribute. Put your needs first and keep moving. *****

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Don't believe everything you hear or let an emotional plea lead you into an unforgiving situation. Focus on stabilizing important relationships and making your home a place of comfort, convenience and affordability. Romance is in the stars. **

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Take an innovative approach to whatever you face at work or at home. Avoid anyone trying

to start an argument, and try not to make any last-minute changes that will affect your plans or your relationship with someone special. ****

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You can learn from the best. A business trip or educational excursion will lead to bigger and better opportunities. Keep your money and possessions in a safe place to avoid loss. Someone will use emotional manipulation to take advantage of you. ***

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Stick to what has worked for you in the past. Don't allow anyone to coerce you into a risky deal. A battle over money or possessions must be handled in a very secretive and unusual manner if you want to avoid loss. ***

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Share your private affairs with a select group of people you know you can trust. Mingle with people who share your interests. A relationship will flourish if you discuss your intentions. A promise or commitment can be made and plans put in to play. ***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Keep what's said in perspective. Overreacting will lead to bigger problems. Put greater emphasis on what you can do to improve your community. Don't settle for less when you know you want more. ****

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Keep emotions in check and promises to a minimum. Concentrate on home improvements and building stronger ties with the people you care about the most. A property

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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or investment deal will help ease your stress and stabilize your future. **

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Take baby steps. Someone will mislead you intentionally if you show signs of gullibility. Stick close to home and protect what means the most to you. It's important not to give too much information to an outsider. *****

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Go after your professional goals. Make an effort to do the things you enjoy doing most. A chance to use your skills in a trendy new way will also generate extra cash. Expanding your circle of friends or family is favored. ***

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Emotional matters will escalate. Question a partnership if the contributions being made aren't equal. Pick up information and skills that will help you protect your interests. Don't give in to persuasive tactics being used to get you to make a donation. ***

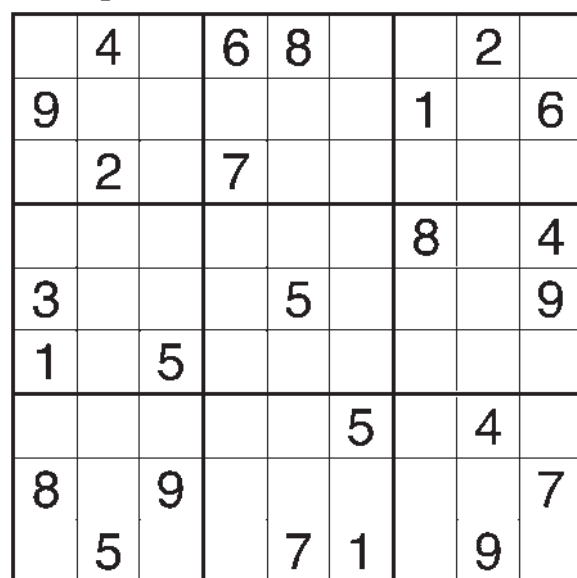
Birthday Baby: You are sensitive, creative and intense. You are disciplined and inquisitive.

Eugenia's website—eugenialast.com, Eugenia's android app @ <http://bit.ly/exhoro> and join Eugenia on [twitter/facebook/linkedin](https://twitter.com/eugenialast).

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

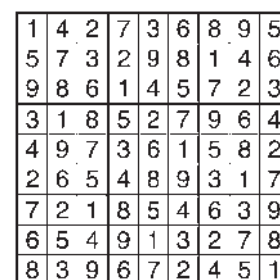


Difficulty Level ★★

3/05

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer



WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

GO-PRO CAMERA

Solution: 4 letters



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Action, Angle, Aspect, Battery, Bitrate, Black, Burst, Buttons, Compact, Dynamic, Fast, Field, Frames, Gift, Hero, High Definition, Image, Lightweight, Load, Megapixel, Memory Card, Microphone, Mode, Mount, Playback, Power, Prime, Professional, ProTune, Range, Rechargeable, Record, Rugged, Sharp, Silver, Software, Still, Touch, Video, View, White, Wide
Yesterday's Answer: Book of Esther
To purchase the WONDERWORD MILLENNIUM SERIES #1, order online at www.WonderWordBooks.com. (Contains 100 puzzles.)

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- Must be flexible with time schedule

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Interested qualified applicants can submit their resume and latest police clearance via e-mail to saipan@aicconstruction.com or mail to AIC Marianas, Inc., PMB 564 PPP Box 10000, Saipan, MP 96950. Closing date: March 11, 2015.

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• 5-Liner	\$24	\$45

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Classified Ads

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Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

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Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

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Saipan

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James scores 27 on milestone night, Cavs cruise past Celtics



CLEVELAND (AP)—LeBron James doesn't usually spend a lot of time talking about personal accomplishments, but he made an exception Tuesday night.

James scored 27 points to move into 21st place on the NBA's career list, and the Cleveland Cavaliers cruised to a 110-79 victory over the Boston Celtics.

James, who has 24,508 career points, moved past former Miami Heat teammate Ray Allen with a layup in the third quarter.

"He's one of my best friends," James said. "He's a guy I competed against and grew up watching, and to be able to team with him the last two years when I was with Miami, I learned so much from him. To know I passed him, it's very humbling."

The Cavaliers have been one of several teams rumored to sign Allen, who hasn't played this season. Asked if passing Allen might give him the incentive to return, James laughed and said, "He'll make one 3 and then retire? I'm going to call him. I don't know. It's pretty cool."

James was pulled with 4:41 remaining in the period and didn't return, playing 26 minutes.

Kyrie Irving scored 18 points in his return after missing two games with a shoulder injury, and Kevin Love—who played despite missing the morning shoot-around due to illness—added 12 points.

The Cavaliers, coming off their first back-to-back defeats since early last month, went ahead midway through the first quarter and rolled to their 19th victory in the last 23 games. Cleveland hadn't lost two in a row since a six-game skid Jan. 4-13. The Cavs have also won 12 straight at home.

Brandon Bass scored 15 points to lead Boston, which lost by its largest margin of the season.

Hawks 104, Rockets 96

In Atlanta, Jeff Teague scored 25 points, Al Horford added 18 and NBA-leading Atlanta rallied from 18 points down to win its fifth straight.

James Harden, the league's leading scorer, was serving a one-game sus-



Cleveland Cavaliers' LeBron James goes up for a shot against Boston Celtics' Evan Turner (11) in the third quarter of an NBA basketball game Tuesday, March 3, 2015, in Cleveland.

pension and did not play for Houston, but the Rockets led for the most of the game until Teague's 3-pointer with 4:24 remaining put Atlanta up 91-90.

Houston forced a couple of ties in the closing minutes, but never regained the lead.

Jason Terry finished with 21 points

in a reserve role and starting forward Terrence Jones had 18 points for Houston, which was attempting to match its season high with a sixth straight victory.

Nuggets 106, Bucks 95

In Denver, Danilo Gallinari scored a season-high 26 points, Kenneth Faried had 14 points and 14 rebounds and Denver won hours after Brian Shaw was fired as coach.

Ty Lawson had 16 points and 10 assists for Denver, which ended a six-game losing streak and won at home for the first time since Jan. 14.

Shaw was fired after 1 1/2 seasons with the team at 20-39. Assistant coach Melvin Hunt was named interim head coach.

Khris Middleton led Milwaukee with 20 points. Giannis Antetokounmpo had 19 points and 11 rebounds for the Bucks, who have lost five of six.

Denver led by six after three quarters and started the fourth on an 11-2 run to go up 87-72.

Hornets 104, Lakers 103

In Charlotte, N.C., Al Jefferson had 21 points and 16 rebounds, Mo Williams added 20 points and 13 assists and Charlotte won for the third time in four games.

Williams, who came in averaging 23.4 points in his first five games since being acquired from Minnesota, had his third double-double with the Hornets. He knocked down a big 3-pointer with a minute to play to push the lead to six and added five free throws in the final 18 seconds to seal the win.

Gerald Henderson added 21 points, including several key baskets late in the fourth quarter. Cody Zeller had 10 points and 11 rebounds as all five Charlotte starters finished in double figures.

Jeremy Lin led the Lakers with 23 points off the bench, while Jordan Clarkson had 19.

Kings 124, Knicks 86

In New York Rudy Gay scored 25 points, DeMarcus Cousins had 22 and Ben McLemore finished with 20 as Sacramento handed New York its worst loss of the season.

The Kings scored the first four points

and never trailed. They built the lead to 16 after the first quarter and to as many as 30 in the second.

Alexey Shved led the Knicks with 15 points. Jason Smith and Shane Larkin had 13 each.

After shooting only 35 percent (7-for-20) from the field in the first quarter, the Knicks were even worse in the second, going 6 for 24 (25 percent).

Their previous worst loss was by 28 points to Charlotte, 110-82, on Jan. 10.

Jazz 93, Grizzlies 82

In Memphis, Tenn., Gordon Hayward and Derrick Favors scored 21 points each, Rudy Gobert added 15 points and a career-best 24 rebounds to lead Utah to its third straight win.

Rodney Hood finished with 13 points for Utah, shot 45 percent.

Courtney Lee led Memphis with 18 points, while Marc Gasol finished with 17 points and eight rebounds. Rookie Jordan Adams added 13 points on 6-for-8 shooting, while Mike Conley scored 11, but was 4 of 11 from the field.

The Grizzlies, who have lost three of four, were short-handed with starting forward Zach Randolph and reserve guard Beno Udrih out with illness, and defensive stalwart Tony Allen suspended for the game due to a violation of team policy.

Bulls 97, Wizards 92

In Chicago, Nikola Mirotic scored 23 points to lead short-handed Chicago past Washington.

The Bulls were without former MVP Derrick Rose (right knee), All-Star Jimmy Butler (left elbow), and trusted reserve Taj Gibson (left ankle), but still managed to improve to 4-2 on their season-high seven-game homestand.

Aaron Brooks scored 22 points while Pau Gasol had 20 points and 10 rebounds for the Bulls, who had five players in double figures.

Chicago's starting lineup of Brooks, Tony Snell, Mike Dunleavy, Gasol and Joakim Noah was the 20th it has used this season. That's the most since 2007-08, when the Bulls also used 20.

Washington was led by John Wall's 21 points and 11 assists.

Denver Nuggets fire coach Brian Shaw with team in slide

DENVER (AP)—Last week, Denver Nuggets players broke their huddle with a chant of "1-2-3 ... Six weeks," interpreted by some as a countdown to the end of a season gone sour.

Brian Shaw didn't even make it that far. The first-time head coach was fired after 1 1/2 seasons on Tuesday, with the team at 20-39 and struggling to win at home. Assistant coach Melvin Hunt was promoted to interim coach and the Nuggets promptly won in his first game, beating the Milwaukee Bucks 106-95 to end a six-game slide.

The timing of the dismissal was somewhat surprising given that just last week general manager Tim Connelly seemed to signal Shaw's job was safe at least through the end of the season.

"We were hopeful we could dig ourselves out of the hole, play more respectful basketball," Connelly explained. "Unfortunately, our struggles have been pretty immense and led to today."

Bucks coach Jason Kidd said he had

dinner with Shaw the night before and that Shaw didn't appear to have any sort of inkling his firing was imminent.

"This wasn't anything, I don't think, he saw coming," Kidd said after his team's morning practice. "It's unfortunate what happened with B-Shaw, being one of my mentors as a player and also a good friend."

Shaw went 56-85 for a .397 winning percentage. The Nuggets were in the midst of 10 straight losses at home—one shy of tying the franchise record set in 1997-98—before ending the skid on Tuesday night. The team has also nosedived since the All-Star break, going 1-6, and attendance has suffered.

Forward J.J. Hickson said Shaw addressed the team before departing. Shaw's message was simply to "finish up strong and be pros. Wished all of us luck," Hickson recounted.

Asked if Shaw lost the locker room, Hickson said, "not in my opinion."

"Have to look in the mirror individually, and own up to some of the

stuff that's going on around here," Hickson added.

Nuggets President Josh Kroenke said the team will look for a permanent coach after the season.

"This has been a trying season for all of us," Kroenke said in a statement. "And we appreciate Nuggets fans continued faith and patience as we build our proud organization back to the NBA's elite."

Shaw replaced George Karl, who was ousted after Denver won a franchise-record 57 games in 2012-13 only to be bounced from the first round of the playoffs for the fourth consecutive season.

The first season as an NBA head coach for Shaw was marked by injuries and a dispute with point guard Andre Miller, who was eventually traded to Washington. The Nuggets went 36-46, missing the playoffs for the first time since 2002-03. The Nuggets returned to health this season, but failed to live up to expectations.

The affable Shaw was seemingly on

the hot seat in November after Portland torched the Nuggets for 84 points in the first half. It was the most points scored in the first half by a Denver opponent since Phoenix scored an NBA-record 107 points on Nov. 10, 1990.

Things began to settle down, though, and the Nuggets went on a five-game win streak. Later, Shaw even eliminated morning shoot-arounds on game days to give his players more time to rest.

In January, Ty Lawson was arrested for investigation of driving under the influence. A month later, the speedy point guard skipped the first practice after the All-Star break when he missed his flight back from Las Vegas. That didn't sit well with Shaw, who kept Lawson out for a game.

Last Friday against Utah, Nuggets players uttered the "1-2-3. ... Six weeks" chant when Shaw wasn't around. Shaw told The Denver Post and other outlets Monday the chant "all stemmed from me saying that we

hadn't won a game in six weeks on our home floor. So I just want to set the record straight in terms of that. That's the real truth behind what's taken off and put us all in a bad light."

After winning three titles with the Los Angeles Lakers during his playing career, Shaw won two more as an assistant under Phil Jackson before becoming associate head coach of the Indiana Pacers. He interviewed for a dozen head coaching positions before Kroenke hired him on June 25, 2013.

Kroenke called Shaw a "champion and a gentleman." He noted that since the Kroenke family purchased the franchise in 2000 "we have constantly strived to field a competitive team." In noting the 10 consecutive playoff appearances and 57-win season in 2012-13, he said: "Expectations have been raised and we want more."

Hunt, who's in his fifth season as an assistant for the Nuggets, said he will borrow some tactics from both Karl and Shaw.

"All 10 toes are in," Hunt said. "We're going to figure out a way to win games."

Play ball! Quickly! Baseball tries to speed game this spring



GOOD-YEAR, Ariz.
(AP)—With

large, glowing red numbers, the timer on the center-field wall at Goodyear Ballpark ticked down Tuesday, counting off seconds and ushering in change.

Baseball, the timeless game of endless summers, went on the clock.

Major League Baseball introduced its new pace of play initiatives during five exhibition games in Arizona and Florida. As expected, there were a few minor glitches as players, managers, umpires and fans adjusted to the “rules” designed to make games shorter, more appealing to TV viewers and perhaps lure the next generation of fans to a sport fighting for attention.

On this opening day, baseball had a slightly different look.

“I’ve never worked a game in the history of baseball that has a countdown clock,” said umpire Dan Iassogna, who kept an eye on second base as the Pittsburgh Pirates and Toronto Blue Jays played in Dunedin, Florida. “That was a little different.”

Under the pace of play provisions, hitters are required to keep one foot in the batter’s box after taking a pitch. Not everyone seemed to get the memo.

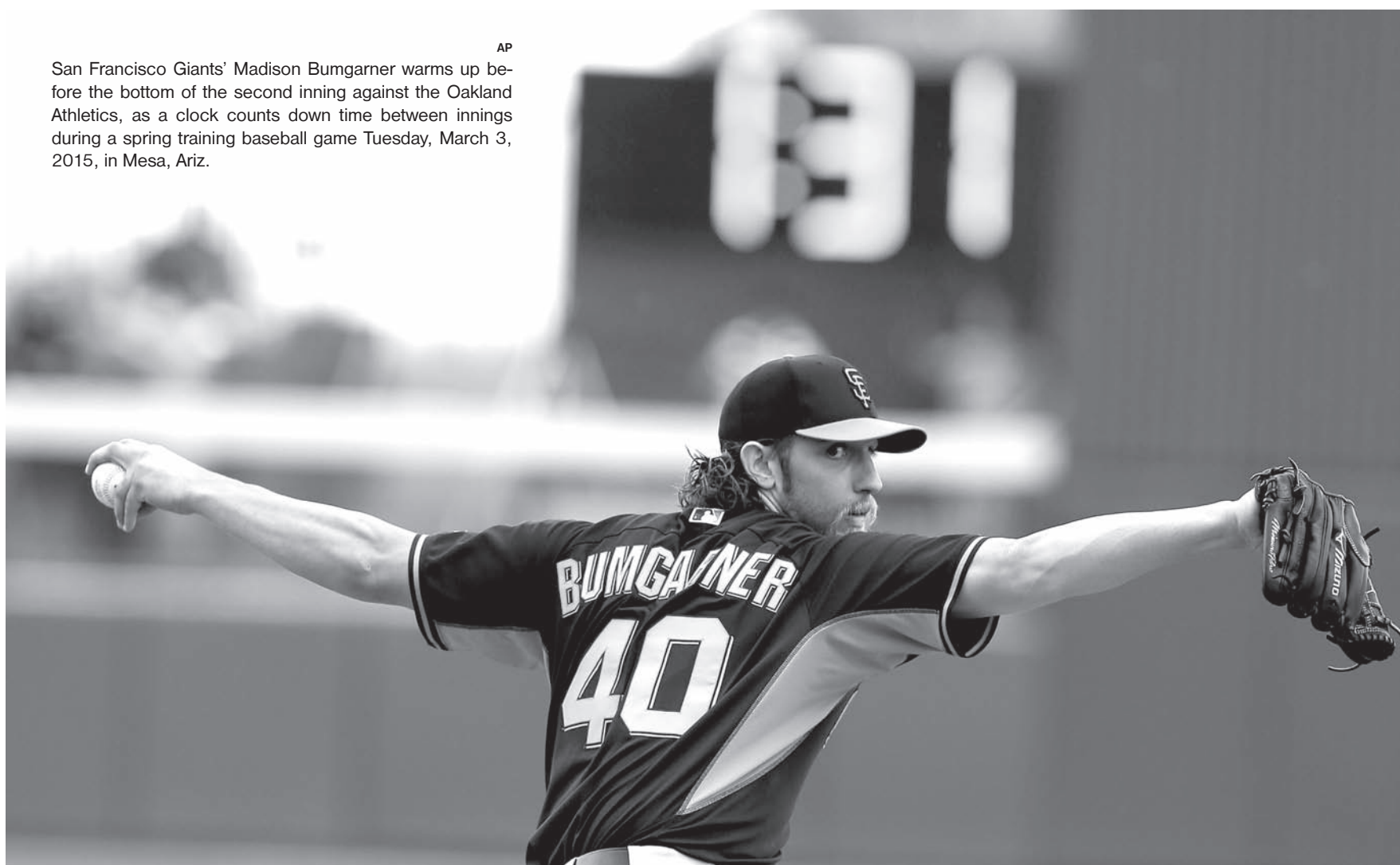
New York Yankees leadoff hitter Jacoby Ellsbury took the first pitch of the game—and this spring, in fact—from Philadelphia’s David Buchanan and immediately stepped outside the white-chalked line, maintaining his routine.

These days, that’s a no-no—not a no-hitter. But Vic Carapazza, the plate umpire for the exhibition in Clearwater, Florida, gave no signal to Ellsbury that he was guilty of breaking one of the new rules.

MLB is using the spring training schedule and regular-season games in April to break everyone in. But starting May 1,

San Francisco Giants’ Madison Bumgarner warms up before the bottom of the second inning against the Oakland Athletics, as a clock counts down time between innings during a spring training baseball game Tuesday, March 3, 2015, in Mesa, Ariz.

AP



offenders will face discipline—most likely fines.

Along with keeping batters close to the plate, pitchers are required to have their warmup tosses completed before the clock—set at 2:25 for regionally televised games and 2:45 for national broadcasts—is down to 30 seconds and the batter must be ready by the time the clock reaches 5 seconds.

After Cincinnati drubbed Cleveland 10-0 in a fairly tidy 2 hours, 50 minutes, Indians manager Terry Francona said he believes the changes will be smooth and players and umpires will work together to tweak any problems. There will be issues and controversy, but that’s baseball.

“I don’t think it’s going to be that big of a deal. I really don’t,” Francona said. “It’s going to be that day and it’s hot and everyone’s a little on edge, that’s when you’re going to see something. But that’s what you see during the games anyway.”

Two clocks were installed at all ballparks throughout the Cactus and Grapefruit Leagues, and for the most part the time pieces went unnoticed. Players hustled on and off the field between innings, most of them seemingly unaware that they were being timed.

“I tried not to pay attention to it,” said San Francisco ace Madison Bumgarner, last year’s World Series MVP. “It’s going to be that way during the sea-

son. I didn’t pay attention. I can usually be ready.”

In a few instances, hitters caught themselves about to drift outside the dirt near home plate and made sure they kept at least a cleat on the edge of the box.

“I reminded a lot of guys today, ‘Oh, you can’t do that. You do that and we’re going to write you up for that. You can’t do that,’” said umpire James Hoyer, who called balls and strikes for the Pirates and Blue Jays. “They’d laugh and say, ‘Oh, sorry.’”

By the way, it took 3 hours, 17 minutes for Pittsburgh to beat Toronto 8-7. The average MLB gametime in the regular season last year was 3:02.

Ellsbury was given the benefit

of the doubt for his misstep. He won’t be as lucky in the months ahead. On Day One, crew chief Tom Hallion and his colleagues weren’t enforcing anything.

“He’s already got enough on his mind, the first pitch of spring training, and now he’s got to remember to stay in the box,” said Hallion, who was at first for the opener. “It’s a work in progress. It’s the first game and we’ll go from here. It’s going to take some work. It’s a change for everybody. It’s not going to get fixed on the first day.”

Fans, too, had to adjust.

As he took his seat a few rows behind Cleveland’s dugout, Glen Pawlak of Concord, Ohio, immediately noticed the clock situated in center

field, just to the right of one of the giant palm trees standing guard in Goodyear at the spring home shared by the Reds and Indians.

Pawlak, happy to be away from the Ohio winter and visiting Arizona with his wife, Jan, and son, Brenden, was eager to see how baseball might change.

“It’s interesting,” he said. “It’s a new adaptation to the game. TV viewers these days have a very short attention span. I think football and some of the other sports with replay and so forth have a distinct advantage to be able to fill in some of that space in between. The changes are subtle, and it’s new so it’s definitely something for everyone to talk about.”



BUFFALO, N.Y.
(AP)—LeSean McCoy will lead Rex Ryan’s “ground and pound” running attack for the Buffalo Bills next season.

Two people familiar with the deal told The Associated Press on Tuesday that the Philadelphia Eagles have agreed to trade McCoy, their star running back, to the Bills for linebacker Kiko Alonso. The people spoke under condition of anonymity because the teams had not announced the deal.

ESPN first reported the trade. The deal has been agreed to, but can’t be completed until the 2015 league season begins on Tuesday. McCoy had an inconsistent season last year after leading the NFL with 1,607 yards rushing in 2013. At his best, McCoy is an elite multidimensional running back who has been a

Eagles deal running back McCoy for Bills’ Alonso

proven threat as both a runner and receiver.

He enjoyed his best season in 2013, scoring nine touchdowns rushing, adding 539 yards receiving and one touchdown.

One reason for McCoy’s drop in production last season was a banged-up offensive line in which all five projected starters never played one game together.

McCoy’s addition leaves C.J. Spiller in search of a new team. He is eligible to become a free agent next week.

Buffalo’s 2010 first-round draft pick told the NFL Network the Bills informed him of the trade, and told him “they were going in that direction, pretty much giving me a ‘Thank you for your service.’”

“Nothing has changed,” Spiller said about his offseason approach. “The game plan is still

the same. The only thing is that I won’t be returning to Buffalo.”

Alonso will be reunited with Chip Kelly, who coached the linebacker at his previous job at Oregon. Alonso made an immediate impact in Buffalo after being selected in the second round of the 2013 draft.

He emerged as a top defensive rookie of the year contender after leading Buffalo with 159 tackles, two fumble recoveries and tying for the team lead with four interceptions while barely missing a snap in playing all 16 games.

Alonso’s career was derailed in July when he sustained a season-ending left knee injury during a pre-training camp workout at Oregon. He spent all of last season recovering and is expected to be healthy for the start of spring minicamps.

In Buffalo, McCoy, 26, will be reunited with former Eagles running back Bryce Brown, who was acquired by the Bills in a trade in May.

With questions at quarterback, the Bills are intending to introduce a run-heavy offense under Ryan and new offensive coordinator Greg Roman.

The trade to acquire McCoy is the next in a series of moves to upgrade the Bills’ running attack, which sputtered under former coach Doug Marrone, who opted out of his contract on Dec. 31. Buffalo finished 25th in the NFL in yards crushing in managing 1,482 yards to set a 16-game season franchise low.

That was regarded as a huge disappointment for a team that entered the season featuring an established one-two running back tandem of Spiller and

Fred Jackson.

Injuries didn’t help. Spiller missed seven games with a broken collarbone, while Jackson was slowed by knee and groin injuries.

The Bills have already taken a gamble to upgrade their offensive line by signing guard Richie Incognito, who had been out of football since the middle of the 2013 season for his involvement in the Miami Dolphins’ bullying scandal.

Roman has an established track record for running the ball after spending the previous four seasons overseeing the 49ers’ offense. The 49ers finished among the top 10 in yards rushing all four times.

Roman’s approach isn’t expected to change in Buffalo based on comments he made during his introductory news

conference in January.

“If you can exert your will at the line of scrimmage, it’s going to open a lot of other things in the offense,” Roman said. “So to simply say, ‘Hey, we’re just going to run the football,’ well, nobody simply runs the football. But we want to run the football to a level of where people respect and fear us in our ability to do so.”

The quiet and soft-spoken—but hard-hitting—Alonso quickly emerged as a fan favorite in Buffalo for his durability and on-field intensity.

With two interceptions in a 23-20 win over Baltimore on Sept. 29, 2013, Alonso became the league’s first rookie linebacker since Al Richardson in 1980 to have an interception in three straight games.

After playing the middle line-backing role as a rookie, Alonso was set to move to an outside position before he hurt his knee.

Beling leads top-ranked players in tennis ladder

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Northern Mariana Islands Tennis Association's ladder director

Luke Beling is among the top-ranked players who will compete in the group's new program that will kick off next week at various courts on the island.

Beling is the No. 1 player in the men's open division and rankings were decided via raffle drawing after the initial registration was completed late last

month. Twenty-four other players joined the men's open ladder and the list includes (in order or rankings) Moris Villanueva, Jeff Race, Bobby Cruz, Colin Ramsey, Dong Min Lee, Raj Rai, Mikayla Lopez, Negahr Rastguiy, Luther Lizama, Ken Imaya, Fr. Ryan Jimenez, Nicky Nichols, Gary Ramsey, Michael Ren, Robbie Schorr, Vincent Tudela, Tony Kim, Steven Goodwin, Ken Song, Richard Asuncion, WooSun Cho, and Steven Lee. Female players are allowed in the men's open field to give them more opportunity to play against tougher players.

Under NMITA's ladder tennis, a player has one initial chance to challenge anyone in any position on the ladder. If the player loses that challenge match, he/she will then be placed on the bottom of the ladder and has to challenge to move up. The new ladder participant who wins that initial match moves into the position of the player he/she just defeated.

Players may challenge upwards a maximum of three positions. Challengers must issue the challenge to higher players and matches must be accepted and

scheduled within two weeks of the challenge, unless both players agree to an extension or the ladder director accepts a reasonable reason for a delay. Players not accepting challenges may be dropped from the ladder.

No player may be challenged more than once a week, while matches will be two sets, regular scoring and in case of a tie, a super tiebreaker will be in effect. Games halted by rain or other acceptable reasons must be played within a week or the win will be awarded to the leading player.

Four other ladders are under the program: men's 40-and-above, boys and girls, and women's open.

Seventeen-year-old Mikayla Lopez leads both the women's open and girls division. She is joined in the women's open by (in order of rankings) Carol Lee, Rastguiy, Isabel Heras, Marivic Rosario, Lydia and Tania Tan, Julia Ishikawa, Ami Tsukagoshi, Mimi Sakano, Malika Miyawaki, and Conatsu Kaga.

In the girls division, 19 other players are entered. Ranked

second behind Lopez is Lee, followed by Rastguiy, Heras, Tania Tan, Julia Ishikawa, Tsukagoshi, Sakano, Miyawaki, Conatsu Kaga, Asia Raulerson, Erika Tuttle, Coume Kaga, Maria Gregoire, Erie Orteta, Ellie Epley, Maaya Sato, Hyejin Elliot, Susan Sablan, and Soleil Lamar.

The boys division has more entries than the girls with 23. Moris Villanueva is the top-ranked player, followed by Tommy Choi, Colin Ramsey, Lizama, Ren, Schorr, Tudela, Kim, Goodwin, Song, Cho, Steven Lee, Eda, Joshua Abragan, Jimin Woo, Allan Lee, Jeffrey Seo, Brian Kim, Sean Lee, Daniel Kang, Richard Steele, Chris Kim, and Anthony Gregoire.

The men's 40-and-above ladder has the least number of entries with 10. CNMI coach Jeff Race leads the list and is joined by Dong Min Lee, Raj Rai, Ken Imaya, Jimenez, Nichols, Eric Abragan, Gary Ramsey, Randy Steele, Steve Hang, and David Lochabay.

The ladder program is introduced to the CNMI to give both junior and adult players more matches and chance to improve their game.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Luke Beling serves to Negahr Rastguiy and Malika Miyawaki during a mixed-up doubles game in last month's Coconut Tennis Classic at the AMP tennis courts. Beling is among the top-ranked players in the NMITA ladder tennis.

16 to vie for bodybuilding honors

Thirteen male and three female will vie for the top honors in the four categories offered in the inaugural Marianas Muscle Bodybuilding Competition, set at 3pm this Saturday at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-purpose Center in Susupe.

The senior men's and women's bodybuilding and physique, and junior men's and women's bodybuilding and physique are the titles to be

contested.

The juniors must be 15 to 17 years old. Trophies will be presented to the winners in each division.

Organizers are requiring all participants to be at the multi-purpose center on or before 1:30pm.

Those who are interested to join have until 5pm today to register. Entry forms are available at the Gilbert C. Ada Gym-

nasium office in Oleai.

The tournament, organized by the Commonwealth Bodybuilding Federation, is only open to amateur bodybuilders and the contest will follow International Federation of Bodybuilding and Fitness rules.

For more information on contest entry and rules, call John Davis at 7899211. *(Jon Perez)*

ISAIAH

From Page 28

61-54. Ezekiel used a balanced offense to barge into the win column with its 7-point victory over Samuel. Vhoie Francia registered 12 points, Roy Alcantara added 10,

and Travis Eubanks and Brendon Perez contributed 9 apiece. Alvin Rebong and Sam Ramirez combined for 13, while three more players scored for Ezekiel.

Jerome Reyes paced Samuel with his 18 points, but had only 6 in the second half.

Meanwhile, games in the

eight-team league will resume Friday night with Caleb taking on Jeremiah in the first match at 6pm and Joshua meeting Gideon in the second tiff at 8pm.

First Game

Ezekiel 61 – Francia 12, Alcantara 10, Lizardo 9, Eubanks

9, Rebong 7, Ramirez 6, Surima 4, Irog 3, Conti 1.

Samuel 54 – Reyes 18, Ponce 10, Samonte 8, Guevarra 7, Bordon 4, Badal 3, Pacia 2, Bonquin 2.

Scoring by halves: 31-29, 61-54.

Second Game

Docomo Pacific in the 6:30pm first game, while Marpac battles Saipan Stevedore in the second match at 8pm.

First Game

PIC 72 – Kossow 14, Demapan 13, Barbo 12, Dela Rosa 9, Hambros 9, Abuy 5, Rabasto 4, Castro 2.

PSS 69 – Basa 32, Diaz 9, itibus 9, Manibusan 8, Tenorio 8, Villacrusis 3.

Scoring by quarters: 13-14,

Isaiah 66 – Ibanez 12, Brillo 12, Fataliofa 9, Puno 6, Dalusung 6, Gragasins 6, Cortez 5, Estanislao 4, De Leon 4, Bulaklak 4.

Joshua 44 – Chavez 11, Isip 10, Gonzales 10, Dequito 5, Sayas 4, Calub 2.

Scoring by halves: 29-21, 66-44.

29-34, 48-57, 72-69.

Second Game

Joeten 90 – Lauron 22, Kwon 18, Ritual 13, Tobias 12, Sambile 6, Nakayama 5, Borja 4, Teregeyo 4, Alfonso 2, Benghit 2, Rankin 2.

Mobil 68 – Arciaga 17, M. Espinosa 12, Estolas 11, W. Espinosa 10, Manalo 6, Factor 4, Dikito 2, Jose 2, Pantaleon 2, Rivera 2.

Scoring by quarters: 13-17, 43-37, 63-47, 90-68.

CONTRASTING

From Page 28

8 apiece. Joe Villacrusis had 3 points.

Sam Kossow led PIC's balanced scoring with 14 points to go with his 14 rebounds, and 2 steals, while Bart Demapan finished with an all-around game of 13 markers, 9 boards, 3 assists, and 2 steals.

In the second game, Joeten outscored Mobil in the third

period to pull away from a tight first half and breeze through victory.

Alex Lauron made 10 of Joeten's 20 points in the third period to help his team enjoy a 63-47 spread entering the final 10 minutes of the match.

Lauron finished with 22 points, 8 rebounds, 2 assists, and a block, while Dixon Kwon backed him up with 18 markers, 8 boards, 2 feeds, and 3 steals. Rocyl Ritual and

Ferdie Tobias scored 13 and 12 each.

Syl Teregeyo only finished with 4 points but grabbed 11 rebounds, issued 3 assists, and had 4 steals also for Joeten.

Mike Arciaga paced Mobil's losing cause with 17 points while Mike Espinosa, Jun Estolas, and Wenz Espinosa added 12, 11, and 10 markers, respectively.

Action continues today with Fiesta Resort & Spa taking on

single to Keola Camacho, who reached third on a passed ball, before retiring Max Castro and Jesse Brel for a quick two outs. He walked Zack Yamagishi to put runners at the corners but struck out Jared Ayuyu to end the game.

Fielders shortstop Jesse Brel doubled in the first, while Ver-

lance Secharmidal and Kenji Yamagata hit consecutive singels against Evangelista.

Evangelista also went 3-for-3, all singels, with two runs while Ian Norita slapped a two-RBI triple in the Braves' eight-run second inning that drove in Ray Saralu, who singled, and Lifoi-foi, who walked.

Norita later scored on a Devin Noisom RBI triple, who was brought in by an Angel Palacios single.

The Braves scored those eight runs with two outs after Khobby Kaipat and M.J. Sakisat were tagged out on consecutive put-out plays by catcher Jose Lizama and Secharmidal, who both

made the relay throw to first baseman Cedric Ada.

The Braves peppered the Fielders' bullpen—composed of starter Cody Kaipat, reliever Camacho, and closer Jose Lizama—with 13 hits.

Kaipat struck out one batter, Franklin Lizama, and walked two, Norita and Frank Lieta.

BRAVES

From Page 28

defense stranded eight Fielders base runners the entire match.

Evangelista also struck out two and walked three batters before being relieved by Lifoi-foi in the top of the fifth.

Lifoi-foi gave up a lead off

NBA STANDINGS				
EASTERN CONFERENCE				
Atlantic Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	38	22	.633	—
Brooklyn	25	33	.431	12
Boston	23	35	.397	14
Philadelphia	13	47	.217	25
New York	12	47	.203	25½
Southeast Division				
Atlanta	48	12	.800	—
Washington	34	27	.557	14½
Miami	26	33	.441	21½
Charlotte	25	33	.431	22
Orlando	19	42	.311	29½
Central Division				
Chicago	38	23	.623	—
Cleveland	38	24	.613	½
Milwaukee	32	28	.533	5½
Indiana	25	34	.424	12
Detroit	23	36	.390	14
WESTERN CONFERENCE				
Southwest Division				
Memphis	42	17	.712	—
Houston	41	19	.683	1½
Dallas	40	22	.645	3½
San Antonio	36	23	.610	6
New Orleans	32	28	.533	10½
Northwest Division				
Portland	39	19	.672	—
Oklahoma City	33	27	.5507	
Utah	24	35	.407	15½
Denver	21	39	.350	19
Minnesota	13	46	.220	26½
Pacific Division				
Golden State	46	12	.793	—
L.A. Clippers	40	21	.656	7½
Phoenix	31	30	.508	16½
Sacramento	21	37	.362	25
L.A. Lakers	16	43	.271	30½
BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS				

Mungcal, Diaz get MVP plums

By **ROSELYN B. MONROYO**
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REPORTER



Blue Haus' Tony Diaz and KB Hite's Randy Mungcal bagged the most coveted individual awards in the 2015 Graphics Invitational Masters Basketball League.

The sweet-shooting Diaz won the Finals MVP trophy, while swingman Mungcal took home the regular season MVP plum during the league's awards ceremony held last Saturday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

Diaz scored 18 points in their 94-78 demolition of KB Hite in the title match last weekend. His consistent outside shooting complemented the inside game of Blue Haus' frontliners Junar Guiab, Edwin Santos, and Edsel

Mendoza, making it easier for the eventual champion to dismantle KB Hite.

The veteran cager sparked Blue Haus' good start in the finale, scoring 7 of his total points in the first period where he outgunned the entire KB Hite crew. KB Hite registered only 6 points in the first 10 minutes of play and never recovered.

Before suffering a bad beating from Blue Haus, KB Hite stunned the second-seeded Armatech and the favored Bammy's Restaurant to advance to the finals.

Mungcal was among the top scorers for KB Hite in their last two matches before their title duel against Blue Haus. He tallied 24 points in their 75-64 win over Armatech and 23 in their 92-87 come-from-behind victory over Bammy's Restaurant.

Mungcal also made it to

the Mythical Team, joining teammate Ed Pangelinan, Armatech's Bernard Montano, Santos, and Bammy's Restaurant's Jun Tabora.

Bombers, Saipan Warriors, and the Slashers were the other awardees of the league, as they shared the sportsmanship award, while Blue Haus' Sam Fernandez was named Best Coach.

Meanwhile, league commissioner Sonny Ebu would like to thank Graphics Printing and its owner Joe Digno for supporting the seven-team competition.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Blue Haus' Tony Diaz pulls up for a shot against Armatech's Raymond Tolentino during their game in the regular season of the 2015 Graphics Invitational Masters Basketball League last month at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.



Tsunami Saipan swimmers eye medals, finals stint

By **ROSELYN B. MONROYO**
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REPORTER

Eight of the nine Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan members competing in this weekend's Tokyo Junior Sprint 2015 are aiming high as they are either going for medals or eyeing finals appearances in their races.

Tsunami Saipan head coach Hiro Kimura said the club's four swimmers will target podium finishes, while the remaining four will attempt to enter the finals of their respective events.

Tokyo Sprint veteran Kaito Yanai is looking to earn gold medals both in the 100m individual medley and 50m breaststroke and also post new personal best times in these races. Miku Tammy, another tournament returnee, is hoping to bag the gold medal in the 50m

breaststroke and make it to the finals of the 100m IM, while Ryuto Yanai is targeting a Top 3 finish in the 50m freestyle.

Ashley Dangol, one of the six swimmers who will debut in the annual tournament, is competing in two events. She is gunning for gold in the 50m butterfly and a Top 3 finish in the 100 IM.

Dangol's fellow Tokyo Sprint newcomers, Anthony Camacho-Deleon Guerrero, Hans Xu, Sophia Gauran, and Nanaka Watanabe are aiming to barge into the finals. Camacho-Deleon Guerrero will compete in the 50m freestyle race, Gauran and Xu will join both the 100M IM, and Watanabe will swim in the 50m breaststroke event. Juhn Tenorio is the ninth member of the team and aims to make it to

the Top 25 in his preliminary races.

Meanwhile, the club would like to thank the people who helped make its swimmers' Tokyo trip possible.

"Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan would like to extend its sincerest appreciation

and gratitude to representatives Edmund Villagomez, B.J. Attao, Edwin K. Propst, Roman Benavente, Lorenzo Deleon Guerrero, Vinnie Sablan, Joseph "Lee Pan" Guerrero, Francis Taimanao, and Ralph Demapan and senators Justo Quitugua and Arnold I. Palacios for their contributions in the club's efforts to represent the CNMI in the Tokyo Junior Sprint Swimming Competition. It is truly humbling to be given the support by our leadership. We are truly



grateful and vow to continue training our young swimmers in every way possible to represent our Marianas," Kimura said.

Tsunami Saipan also thanked the management and staff of Mariana Resort & Spa for allowing the club to hold a fundraiser at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool and the parents of other swimmers for supporting the same event even though their children are not joining the Tokyo trip.

The eight-member Tsunami Saipan team will leave Saipan for Tokyo this morning.

Golf eyed as Little League regional fundraising event

By **JON PEREZ**
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REPORTER

The Asia-Pacific-Middle East Regional Tournament organizing committee will hold a golf tournament as a fundraiser to augment the cost of hosting the annual Little League event.

Former Saipan Micronesian Games Organizing Committee chair Rex Palacios is helping organize the golf tournament, which is set in May.

The final date will be announced at a latter time with either Coral Ocean Point Golf Resort or Marianas Country Club as the venue.

Tournament format will be single Peoria to make the scoring simpler and quicker since the organizers already have software to compute the final scores once the golfers turn in their scorecards.

Palacios said they would start printing the tickets, which will be \$100 each, and they would set the limit of participants to 144 golfers only.

"We would start selling the tickets one month before the tournament. Sometime in April the tickets will be out," said Palacios during yesterday's meeting at the Gilbert

C. Ada Gymnasium conference room.

He added that he has also talked to three local golf club presidents and they said that they would support the fundraising initiative.

"It is for a good cause and the proceeds of the event would augment the cost of hosting the tournament. Some of those who will buy tickets would not actually play, they just want to help in the fundraising event."

Raffle prizes would also be given away during the banquet of the golf tournament where organizers are preparing for a maximum of 200 people including the volunteers.

Palacios said they would need to start recruiting volunteers that would help them in running the golf tournament.

"We'll be looking for volunteers in the next two months. Probably those parents or players under the Little League program who are old enough to assist us," added Palacios.

The Legislature has already appropriated \$50,000 for the Commonwealth's hosting of the regional tournament while additional funds would come from the fees that would be collected from all the participating teams.



CONTRIBUTE D PHOTO

Kaito Yanai acknowledges the crowd after completing his race during last year's Tokyo Sprint at the Tatsumi International Swimming Arena in Tokyo.

James scores 27
on milestone
night, Cavs
cruise past
Celtics

PAGE 24



Saipan Tribune Sports



Mungcal,
Diaz get
MVP plums

PAGE 27

28 THURSDAY, MARCH 5, 2015

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Isaiah gains share of lead in Genesis Cup

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Isaiah joined defending champion Daniel on top of the leaderboard in the 4th Genesis Cup Christian Churches Inter-Color Basketball League after routing Joshua, 66-44, last Monday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Isaiah improved its record to 2-0 to lead Joshua (1-1), Gideon (1-1), Caleb (1-1), Ezekiel (1-1), Samuel (0-2), and Jeremiah (0-2).

Marlo Ibanez and Walter Brillo scored 12 points each to hand Isaiah a clean record. Ibanez drilled 8 of his total points in the first half to help Isaiah control the match in the closing minutes of that period.

Isaiah even managed to take a double-digit spread, 24-14, as Joshua was stuck to 14 points for nearly five minutes before Donnel Isip hit a wide-open short jumper.

Before going cold, Joshua even led at 14-13. It never recovered after facing a 21-29 halftime deficit as Brillo took over from Ibanez in the second half, fir-

ing 8 of his total output in the final 20 minutes of play. Five other Isaiah players scored at least two baskets apiece in the second half to ease past Joshua, while two more contributed one field goal apiece.

Only three players nailed more than two baskets for Joshua in the second half, as the team faltered in its bid for a follow-up of its 60-54 debut win against Ezekiel.

Ezekiel made for that first loss when it edged Samuel in the curtain-raiser last Monday,

See ISAIAH on
Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Isaiah's Francis Estanislao unloads a one-hander against Joshua's Darwin Gonzales, while Roger Abe looks on during the first half of their game in the Genesis Cup last Monday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.



Contrasting wins for PIC, Joeten

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Pacific Islands Club and Joeten Enterprises defeated their respective foes in contrasting fashion in the Inter-Commercial Business Basketball League 2015 last Tuesday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

PIC squeezed out a thrilling 72-69 decision over Public School System, while Joeten used a third-quarter scoring spree in cruising to a 90-68 thrashing of Mobil/JP World.

The reigning Inter-Hotel

champions had to sweat it out against PSS and trailed for most part of the match before erupting in the final period to secure its fourth-straight win.

Darwin Barbo scored 8 of his total 12 points in the fourth quarter to help PIC overhaul a 57-48 third-quarter lead.

PSS, behind Preston Basa's outside shooting, led for three quarters but could not find the

finishing kick that could have dealt PIC its first loss in the tournament.

Basa fired seven of PSS' 10 3-pointers to finish with a game-high 32 points, but five of his teammates only managed to score in the game with Jerry Diaz and Maverick Itibus adding 9 markers each, while Melvin Manibusan and Christopher Tenorio turned in

See CONTRASTING on
Page 26



JON PEREZ
Mobil/JP World's Manolo Manalo tries to go to the baseline while teammate Wenz Espinosa provides the screen in their game in the Inter Commercial Business Basketball League on Tuesday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Braves in shutout win over Fielders

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER



A.J. Evangelista and J.J. Lifofoi shut down the Fielders to help the NSA Braves complete an 11-0 win in Tuesday night's Big League game in the Saipan Little League at the Francisco M. "Tan Ko" Palacios Baseball Field.

The Fielders, despite the loss, still had some bright moments in the game when they made two double plays—in the first and fourth innings. But those defensive gems failed to dampen the Braves' spirits.

Evangelista tossed four scoreless innings, holding the Fielders to three hits and forcing their opponents to hit fly balls, grounders, and line drives that kept the defense busy. In all, the Braves

See BRAVES on Page 26



JON PEREZ
The NSA Braves used steady pitching and impressive batting in completing a shutout win over the Fielders in the Big League division of the Saipan Little League on Tuesday night.